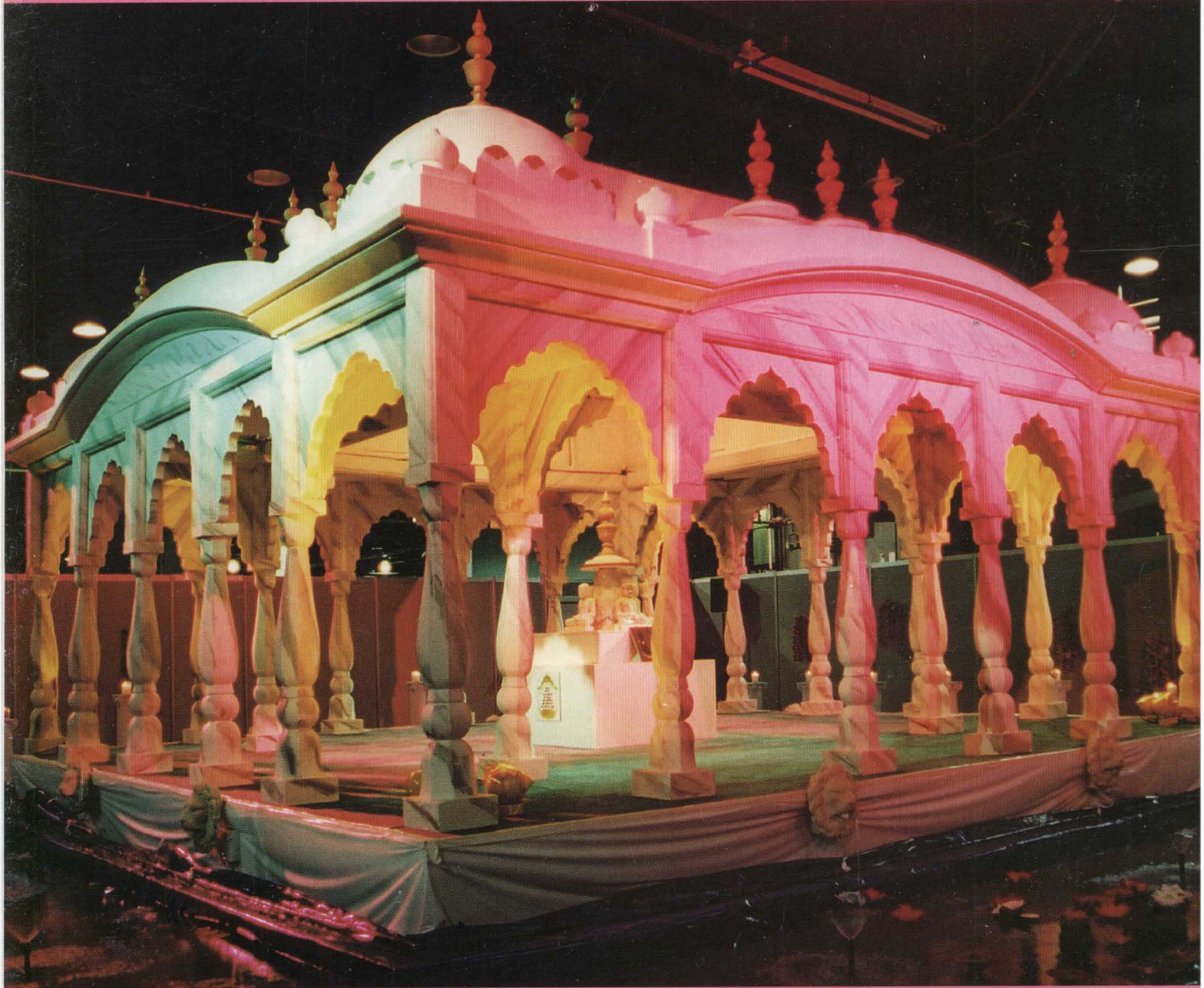


The Magazine of the Federation of Jain Associations in North America

JAIN DIGEST

Fall 2001 Volume 19 No 3



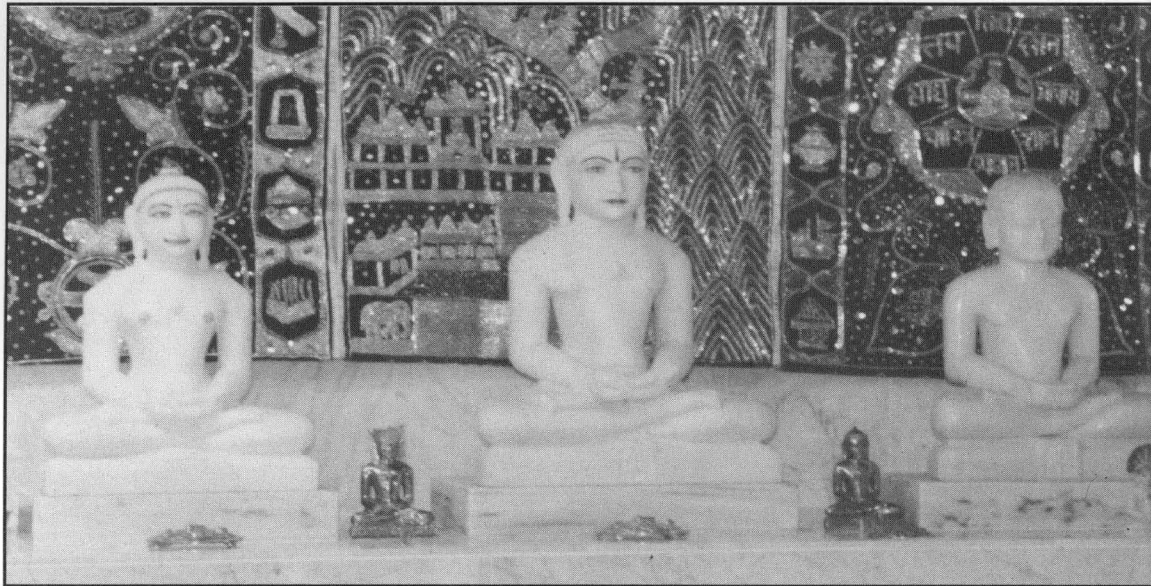
REPLICA OF JAL MANDIR

JAINA CONVENTION 2001

AS WE PRAY



JAIN TEMPLE, WASHINGTON, DC



JAI JINENDRA

अहो! अहो! श्री सद्गुरु, करुणासिंधु अपार
आ पामर पर प्रभु कर्यो, अहो! अहो! उपकार (१२४)

Thanks! the Holy True Teacher!
Unfathomable ocean of compassion;
I'm highly obliged; Oh! good Teacher,
The Pupil poor has no expression. (124)

शुं प्रभुचरणकने धरुं? आत्माथी सह हीन,
ते तो प्रभुअे आपियो, वर्तु चरणाधिन (१२५)

What should I offer to you, Lord?
In soul-comparison all is trifle;
The soul is gifted by the Lord,
I wish to act to your oracle. (125)

- Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra, Srimad Rajchandra -

We dedicate ourselves to ceaseless efforts of
Acharya Sushil Kumarji and Gurudev Chitrabhanuji,
in spreading the principles of Jainism
among all the Jains settled in North America.

We congratulate the Executive Committee for their devoted service to JAINA.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Jains,

Jai Jinendra!

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Thanks to all for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of JAINA. I consider it to be a great honor, and I will do my best to further the JAINA cause. First, I would like to congratulate all of the past presidents for making JAINA a truly world-renowned organization. They have done a great job in promoting JAINA, such that it is now recognized by world-leading organizations such as the United Nations, World Religion Council, and the US and Indian governments.

I would like to share with you some ideas I have for JAINA for the upcoming years. In general, I wish to further JAINA in the following areas:

- Jain Knowledge Sharing / pathshala, universities
- Participation in all geographic, demographic areas (even in smaller Jain communities)
- Representation of all Jain sects
- Providing quality speakers to many centers.

With each issue of the Jain Digest, I would like to elaborate on one of these goals, and report progress on programs and activities that we have already initiated. For this issue, I would like to focus on specific goals we have towards Jain Knowledge Sharing.

I want to take up Jain knowledge sharing in this issue.


- We are at the final stage of **pathshala course work**. We have currently levels 1 through 4 available. With some modifications in the level 1&2 books we will have very appropriate books for young minds. Additionally, the pathshala teachers' conference at least once a year will create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and improvement across North America.
- We seek to create **Jainism Chairs** at as many Universities as possible. Thus we will spread the knowledge to Jains and Non-Jains. Advance study programs will be encouraged.
- The **JAINA Library** is being automated at Jain Society of Southern California at Los Angeles. The books will be available through your Jain Centers.
- We have begun exploring and organizing regular **Jain Scholars' Lectures** from all over the world. We plan to do that by use of **Internet and commercial TV** broadcast.

Horrible events of September 11 in NY, Washington DC and Pennsylvania resulting in loss of thousands of lives is not just an American national tragedy, it is a black day for all of humanity. We mourn for those lost and send our condolences to those affected by these events. We pray for the souls that were lost and empathize with all who have suffered from this immense tragedy as we recognize that all lives are interdependent.

JAINA has started the "**World Trade Center Victim's relief fund**" and stands ready to help in anyway it can. Please contribute generously to the fund.

Finally, I encourage all fellow Jains to provide feedback and constructive criticism regarding JAINA activities and future plans. Furthermore, if anyone has creative ideas or suggestions that allow us to fulfill specific goals, please write to us. We believe, communication is the key to uniting all Jains in North America, and, in addition to *leading*, we would like to *listen* and *learn* from all fellow Jains. Please send by e-mail to me at dmdmrch@core.com.

Yours truly


Bipin D. Parikh, JAINA President

Moving? Receiving duplicate copies?
Send your address corrections to:

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JAIN DIGEST

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Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA)

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The Managing Editorial Board will endeavor to publish all material submitted but reserves the right to edit and/or reformat for clarity and space restrictions. The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Managing Editorial Board of JAIN DIGEST.

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Summer (June)	May 15
Fall (September)	August 15
Winter (December)	November 15

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OF JAIN DIGEST

We encourage our readers to send their questions, comments or views on current issues or concerns facing the Jain community of North America to the Editor in Chief, Lata Champsee. We endeavor to publish all letters, space permitting. The JAIN DIGEST reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and/or space. All letters must include the sender's name, address and phone number to be considered for publication.

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Regular: Two directors on JAINA's Board (over 50 families). **Associate:** One director on JAINA's Board (up to 50 families).

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Jai Jinendra !

JAIN DIGEST congratulates the Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago for hosting the 11th JAINA Convention this past July. We acknowledge the thousands of hours spent by the volunteers in making it a grand success.

It takes a great deal of time and money to produce and distribute JAIN DIGEST to over 7500 families. You can help by becoming a JAINA Patron. Please inform about any change of address and for adding new members to its mailing list at jainahq@aol.com.

We would like to hear from you, share your insights through letters to Editor. Feel free to send in any articles, information you may wish to share it with community at large.

Last but not the least, JAIN DIGEST would like to congratulate the new Executive Committee and wish them very best.

Lata Champsee

DIPAK C. JAIN: DEAN, KELLOGG SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT



Dipak.C.Jain, associate dean for academic affairs of Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management and a professor of marketing, has been named dean of the school, effective July 1.

The succession was far from automatic. The school undertook what it called an "exhaustive national search" with the help of the executive head hunting firm. It examined some 120 candidates before narrowing it down to Jain.

One of Kellogg's most popular professors, in addition to his teaching at Kellogg, he has served as a visiting professor at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Nijenrode University, Koblenz and IIT Delhi, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Tel Aviv University.

Jain, who is only 43, lives in Evanston suburb close to the Kellogg School with his wife Sushant, and three children Dhvani, Kalash, and Muskaan.

Past Presidents of JAINA - Federation of Jain Associations in North America

1981-83

Lalit Shah

1983 - 85

Manoj Dharamshi



1985 - 87

Tansukh Salgia



1987- 93

Sulekh Jain



1993- 95

Jagat Jain



1995 - 97

Manibhai Mehta



1997- 99

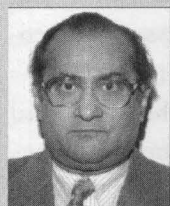
Dhiraj Shah



Meet Your Executive Committee for the 2001 - 2003 term

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Bipin D. Parikh



First Vice President

Anop R. Vora



Regional
Vice Presidents:

Canada

Lata Champsee



Northeast US

Sushil Jain



Southeast US

Mahendra V. Mehta



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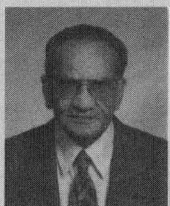
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Southwest US

Udai Jain



West US

Hasendra Shah



Midwest US

Ila G. Shah



JAINA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS IN CHICAGO

Newly elected Executive Committee of JAINA held its first meeting on July 7, 2001 at Chicago, IL. The following are the highlights of the subjects that were discussed: Meeting was started with recital of Navkar Mantra.

It was decided by everyone to put their e-mail addresses on the JAINA letterhead for the ease of communication.

Mr. Girish Shah, will setup Yahoo e-mail group for the executive committee for ease of sending messages to all executive committee members. Mr. Bipin Parikh was going to request CISCO to donate router to JAINA for use by JAINA's teleconference. JSMC will maintain the line and the router for the use of JAINA, in exchange for the use of router by JSMC. We will have teleconference every month among executive committee.

JAINA committees: Set up policies for formation of new committees. All committees chairmen need to define their functions, objectives and their goals- short and long terms. Chairman of each committee must send out reports by e-mail.

Temple Guideline Committee: They should stay out of each individual Jain Centers affairs. TGC should work on such things as getting deities, etc. It should be more of a resource center for Jain centers building new temples or expanding their facilities. When we have yearly directors meetings, we should offer mini workshops for temple building, etc. This could be attended by centers expanding their temples, etc.

Anop Vora proposed a following resolution seconded by Girish Shah for the discussion:

JAINA should join World Jain Confederation as institutional foundation member. International relations committee would pay its fees of \$625.

Finance: JAINA don't have enough cash on the hand to print next issue of Jain Digest. We need \$10,000 for the next issue of JAIN Digest. Mr. Bipin Parikh suggested that we need a marketing man to market all the products of JAINA to the corporate world. He would speak to someone about marketing position on an honorary basis. There was a discussion on advertisement rates in Jain Digest.

Regional vice president will request local Jain Centers presidents to give us their latest membership list. This would help us ensure that we will get the current addresses for the mailing of JAIN Digest. Dr. Dhiraj Shah was spending his personal funds to send out 300 copies of JAIN Digest to dignitaries and other organizations in India. He asked if JAINA would like to take over this. Due to the lack of finance and lukewarm response from recipients in India, it was decided to discontinue this practice.

Meeting was adjourned with Khamemi Save Jiva.

JAINA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN CHICAGO

Board of Directors of JAINA met in Chicago on July 6th. Dr. Mahendra Pandya, the president of JAINA opened the meeting with recital of Navkar Mantra.

The common themes of discussions were as follows:

Financial Condition of JAINA:

Mr. Anop Vora presented very bleak picture of JAINA's treasury. At present we have only \$1,200 in checking account.

Surendra Singhvi stated that the number of patrons has declined from 200+ to 87 patrons. Patrons need to renew their membership and recruit new patrons to support JAINA. JAINA should charge yearly subscription of \$10 for JAIN Digest so it becomes self-sufficient. (This had overwhelming support from the floor)

Prem Jain: Jains have enough funds to support JAINA and its activities. But we have not been able to put forward our need to our society at large. Jains have been contributing at other places, but due to poor communication and marketing efforts we have not been able to divert funds for our own activities.

Satish Nayak stated that every center is very rich. Members pay for the dues because they belong. We need centers to feel the ownership in JAINA. In the past JAINA had Dignitaries programs which was supported both financially and functionally by JAINA. Dignitaries were a major link between JAINA and the Jain centers. Create a link between JAINA and Jain Centers, and money will flow.

Bipin Parikh said JAINA is a very important franchise. We have lot of products to market. The new executive committee will take up the marketing of JAINA. We should make JAINA as household word with the help of directors and local Centers.

Awareness of Jainism, Principles and its Practices:

Surendra Singhvi, Dayton, OH: Suggested that for the last 10 years Ahmisa Day is observed on 1st Sunday in October. Jain centers should continue this practice by holding essay competition, holding prayers, etc.

2. Awareness of Jain Principles: Meat and alcohol was served in Jain parties and weddings. Even eggs were consumed in many Jain households under the pretense of vegetarianism. It was suggested that we need to create awareness of Jain principles and its meaning, so such practices could be reduced and eventually abolished.

3. With the help of Jain Centers, get good count of JAIN population in USA. This will help us get political clout.

4. Make Samvatsari Pratikramn available in English.

Dipika Dalal, urged (JAINA) to create better educational and informational material. This will help in promoting awareness

about Jainism, its practices and also help acceptance by new generation.

Temple Guidelines:

Khasgiwala, Many new Jain centers are being formulated on very regular basis. How can JAINA help implement non-sectarian formats and practices?

Jagat Jain stated that JAINA adopted its first temple format in 1991 held at San Francisco convention. Since then we have revised our formats as follows:

1. On one continuous bedi there will be one idol of each Shwetambar and Digambar Sect and Navkar Mantra (for all non murti pujaks) in the center of bedi. Navkar mantra will be a cohesive factor for all three sects, as it is universal and acceptable to all three sects.

2. Equal number of idols for each sect, could be three or five and Navkar Mantra (for all non murti pujaks) in the center.

The point is to keep the entire community together. Dallas sangh was the first one to follow JAINA format. Many other centers have followed the tradition since then such as Buffalo, NY, Edmonton, Canada and Hartford, Conn.

Girish Shah- stated temple guidelines are only guidelines. It should not become a reason for the disunity. Each center has its own unique facility requirements.

Communications: Prem Jain observed, though JAINA started 20 years ago; we still have not overcome the problems of proper infrastructure to allow the communication with the Jain centers. We need to get Jain Centers involved and participate in JAINA. Ask each director to come up with list of top 10 problems they have been facing with JAINA, local centers, etc.

He further suggested that we should put JAINA and other activities on Internet. Take advantage of the technology.

Kirit Gosalia, remarked that external communication is very important. JAINA should make press releases available for major ceremonies and events. Each Jain Center should be sent out on a regular basis upcoming events such as 2600th birth anniversary of Mahavir Bhagwan. If you let enough people know about Jainism, vegetarianism, etc. then you would be noticed.

Sudhir Shah said JAINA should survey Jain Centers to find out its expectations of JAINA. JAINA should become resource center for many issues faced by Jain centers, such as education, temple guidelines, etc.

Sharad Shah suggested JAINA should have leadership conference at the national level to create harmony.

Jagat Jain: Each Jain Center's president should become JAINA's director to facilitate better communication.

Kamlesh Shah said that each Jain Center needs to update the list of its President and directors ASAP, and send yearly dues in

timely fashion. He has to wait as long as 6-9 months before he collects all yearly dues

Surendra Singhvi: Define jobs of regional vice presidents. Once every two years there should be a JAINA day in each Jain Center. Regional vice president along with JAINA executive committee members should attend this. This will make JAIN centers aware of JAINA activities. It would be also a good opportunity to renew and make new patron members of JAINA.

Ila Mehta felt that there was a lack of link between directors and regional vice presidents. Directors were not responsive for/to their centers. She suggested having teleconference between vice presidents and directors on a quarterly basis.

It was felt that **Pathshala books** were not widely available, though Dr. Gada's education committee carried out substantial work. **Birud Zaveri**, suggested that these Pathshala books should be put on the net. This way it can be printed out on as needed basis.

Convention: **Chandrakant Shah** suggested that there was not enough time to attend all the lectures. We should offer extra days of daylong workshops prior to the beginning of the convention. Need to get bigger rooms for lectures. Some of the lectures rooms were overcrowded.

Some felt that Keynote and opening ceremonies were too long. It was suggested that in the future, we should limit the speeches and the opening ceremony.

YJA Nirav Shah, All YJA wants to do is convention. He wanted JAINA to be available to them as their resources.

Focus your energy on youth. You need to cultivate youth to get them active in JAINA. When your generation burns out from the current executive committee who are you going to look at to replace you? Youth would not have time to participate in JAINA till their family is raised and gone. That will be a long time before they are made available to you. So you need to start looking at youth NOW.

Incoming President, Dr. Bipin Parikh presented his and his incoming executive committees' vision as follows:

JAINA should become a household name. JAINA will become financially independent, so JAINA can support many of its own worthwhile activities and help centers. He wants to establish better communication with JAIN centers. And last but not the least, he wants JAINA to become a unifying force for JAINS all over the world.

Kirit C. Daftary and Vinay Vakani adjourned meeting with Khamemi Save Jiva.

Kirit C. Daftary, Regional Vice President - JAINA

LETTER TO PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

September 12, 2001

Honorable George W. Bush
President of United States of America
White House, Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

Yesterday's tragic terrorist attack on the World Trade Center of New York, a symbol of our prosperity and attack on the Pentagon in Washington, a symbol of our strength are unquestionably the most horrifying act in the American history.

We, the Jains, followers of Non-Violence strongly condemn the audacious attack on the innocent citizens of our great country. This is a day of national sorrow that has left an indelible mark on the character of our country.

We, the Jains, are holding prayer meetings at all our 57 Chapters and pray for the safety and well being of all Americans. We would like to express our deepest sympathy for the victims and their families.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bipin Parikh
President, JAINA



Dr. Dhiraj Shah
Chairman, Govt. & International
Organizations Relations

JAINA CALENDAR COMMITTEE (JCC)

JCC is happy to have about 1000 (One Thousand) sets of three following books mailed to all the JAINA Presidents, Executive Members, Sponsor of the Calendar, Trustees, Patrons, and all the responders for Jaina Calendar with a contribution of \$50 or more. JCC is planning to have these sets of books for the JAINA Mini Library available to all the remaining 4000 Jain households in North America with an estimated cost of \$250,000, before we conclude our year long celebration of 2600 Janm Kalyanak of Bhagwan Mahavir by April 2002. Books selected by calendar responders are Jainism, A Pictorial Guide to the Religion of Non Violence (Kurt Teitz), Jaina, Religion and Philosophy (Nagin Shah), Aspect of Jain Religion (Vilas Sangave). A generous contribution from all is requested. Please send your tax deductible contribution check made to JAINA to Rajeev Pandya, 73 Beebe Street, Staten Island, NY 10301, for further information please contact on 212.319.8291.

Rajeev Pandya, Chairman

JAINA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Pathshala teachers meeting during the 11th Biennial JAINA Convention was organized by Pravin Shah, and coordinated by Sailes Jain, Pradip Shah, and Darshana Shah. Approximately 60 - 70 teachers and coordinators attended this meeting.

The objectives of this session were to know and understand concerns, ideas and views from all with regard to Jain Education in the US. The foremost concern was identified as the necessity to develop educational materials and to have them available to all Pathshalas. Other concerns which were discussed included attendance, parental involvement, curriculum changes and preparing the teachers.

For developing material, 20 volunteers agreed to review and edit the existing material. Dr. Manibhai Mehta assured that funding would be available for this project. For JAINA Education material, teachers and coordinators would be organizing efforts to review the material.

If interested, please contact Pravin Shah at pkshah1@attglobal.net or 919-859-4994.

COMMITTEE NEWS....

WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICES :

GUJARAT EARTHQUAKE AND JAINA

As you know from the summer Jain Digest issue, JAINA was in forefront helping the earthquake victims by providing them basic necessities of life. JAINA also sponsored a school at Samkhiali, near Bhachau, built by Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana. JAINA also donated 10 computers for students, victims of earthquake at Veerayatan Vidhyapeeth, Bhuj. JAINA sent large supplies of medicine and wheelchairs to Bidada Sarvodaya Trust Hospital, near Bhuj, to help sick and amputees. Now JAINA is embarking on a major project, construction of new village, 6.3 KM. away from Bhuj, near village Bhujodi. It will be named 'VARDHAMAN NAGAR' to commemorate 2600th birthday celebration of Lord Mahavir. Marble plaque in front of Vardhamanagar will inscribe name of The Federation of Jain Associations in North America, Jain Center Of America, New York, NY. and India Earthquake Relief Organization Of Michigan. Primary school is sponsored by Jain Society of Toronto. Middle school is sponsored by Jain Sangh of Tulsa, OK. High school is sponsored by Jain Center Of Greater Boston. A community from Binghamton, NY has sponsored a

library. Community hall and First aid health care center are sponsored by Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago. Construction of Vardhamanagar will begin on 26th. October, 2001 on auspicious day of Vijayadashami. If you or your Sangh has not forwarded your contribution to JAINA, please send your tax deductible contribution, payable to JAINA and mail it to; **Prakash Mehta**

2960 motherwell court, Oak Hill, VA 20171

JAINA intends to publish names of all the donors in next Jain Digest, if you want to remain anonymous, please inform Prakash Mehta. For further information and suggestions please contact any one of following JAINA representatives:

Dr Dhiraj H. Shah Project Manager
Earthquake Victims Relief
716-773-1314

B.S. Ajmera
Chairman, WCS
301-431-2525

Bhadresh Dhillia
Co-Chairman, WCS
301-570-1117

Prakash Mehta
Co-Chairman, WCS
703-352-8340

"Pancha Dhama" Shrama-Yatra

(Pilgrimage of 5 Tirths with Labor of Love)

Because of such devastating, horrible and tragic earthquake in Gujarat and Kutch, haven't you thought of being more helpful and supportive in rehabilitation efforts? Haven't you thought about doing MORE than just DONATE MONEY to the CAUSE? "What Can I Do More for those victims being here in USA" is it your feeling? Have your adult children ask that they would like to help our mother country in its time of greatest need?

JAINA-World Community Services- has designed a unique program "**Shrama-Yatra**" from January 2 through January 8, 2002 (*Pilgrimage with Labor of Love*) to any one who wants to help. This program unites the 'Bhakti' aspect of Pilgrimage with 'Karma Yoga' aspect of 'Labor of Love' as evidence in world renowned Habitat of Humanity project of Millard Fuller. Here is your chance to put Lord Mahavira's message of "Service to the poor is Service to me" in action. You will be doing YATRA of 5 'TIRTHS' along with working on Houses, Schools and/or Community Center with your hands. And it is a **FULL GROUND PACKAGE**.

• **Make your own travel arrangements to India or contact: Jaya Travels of Detroit at 248-358-9100**

The Entire **GROUND PACKAGE** includes following:

- Return train fare from Bombay to Gandhidham, Kutch (I class)
- 7 days Lodging and Boarding (3 meals included)
- Bus transportation to and from Work Site and "TIRTHS"
- Visits in Kutch of various projects and Bidada Hospital
- Work on Houses/Schools for Four(4) days
- "Tour of 5 'TIRTHS' – Naliya, Kothara, Tera, Bhadreshwara and 72-Jinalaya
- One Night of Kutchi Culture entertainment
- Stavans and Bhavana Program,
- Home Going Gift
- This entire package costs ONLY \$ 121 per person. The accommodation is for 70 persons only; so hurry up for your reservation prior to October 15. Camp is from January 2 to January 8, 2002

For more information, please call: Ramesh P. Shah co-ordinator 440-442-4596 and mail your checks of \$121/ for ground package payable to: JAINA-World Community Services (memo: Shrama Yatra) c/o Ramesh P. Shah, 6737 Wildwood Trail, Mayfield Village, Ohio 44143 e-mail: jshah6138@aol.com

SPIRITUAL PURSUIT OF LORD MAHĀVEER AND HIS MISSION

Manu Doshi, Chicago, IL

*Pranīhanti Kṣhānārdhen Sāmyamālambya Karma Tat
Yanna Hanyānnarastivratapāsā Janmakotibhihi*

Hemchandrāchārya

(Karmas, which cannot be destroyed by intense austerities for millions of lives, can be instantly destroyed by resorting to equanimity.)

Even a casual reader of Lord Mahāveer's life can notice that he had to face terrific pain and affliction during his spiritual pursuit. During that period of twelve and a half year, he took food only on 349 days, the remaining days he fasted. Once, he stayed without food for almost six months. We marvel at the capacity to remain without food so long. Some people find it hard to believe that one can survive so long without food. It is, however, a fact that during 98-99 Sahajmuni fasted for one year at Bangalore. If he could do it, there can not be any doubt about the ability of the Lord in observing long fasts.

The Lord could also overcome the need for sleep. Most of the time he did not sleep at all. Moreover he used to adopt very tough postures during his spiritual pursuit. We are awed by his capacity to stay steadfast in such postures. There are other more significant aspects that go unnoticed. Do we ever try to understand what was the source of his capability and what he was doing during the fasts, particularly when he was avoiding sleep? Did he keep lying down during the fasts? Actually, he stayed alert and vigilant and used to meditate during that time. In other words, he was observing Kāusagga most of the time.

By Kāusagga we generally understand reciting the required number of Navakārmantra or Logassa Sutra as fast as we can and then terminating it by uttering Namō Arihantānam. That is not the real implication of Kāusagga. It actually requires giving up all the activities of the body as well as the mind and to contemplate about the Self. We happen to have forgotten our true nature and the purpose of spiritual pursuit is to know the Self by resorting to meditation. The importance of meditation seems to have been lost in Jain tradition and emphasis is mostly laid on fasts as a mode of observing Tap. It should, however, be remembered that Swādhyāy, Dhyān and Kāusagga are the highest types of Tap. That Tap helps in making the aspirant aware of the self. One's weaknesses and drawbacks get exposed in the light of awareness. As they cannot bear such exposure, they start giving way. As such, the aspirant feels physically as well as mentally lightened and experiences the peace that arises from within. The Lord was observing that Tap during his spiritual pursuit.

Meditation involves concentration of mind. It is known that when one concentrates his mind on any matter, he does not remain conscious of other events and happenings. He may even fail to hear the striking of the clock that may be hanging just over his

head. The Lord used to stay so much absorbed in contemplating about the soul that he did not remain aware of other aspects inclusive of the need for food and sleep or of the pain inflicted upon him. His concentration was thus more awe-inspiring than any other aspect. That concentration & meditation helped him in overcoming all the defilements and ultimately led to the Self-realization.

The principal purpose of spiritual pursuit is to learn how to remain unimpassioned spectator of whatever happens. For this purpose the Lord has laid down the Tripadi of Utpād, Vyaya and Dhrouvya. It states that every matter, while maintaining its own nature, continually undergoes changes in its states. One state disappears and another state arises. In other words, every state of the matter is impermanent. Meditation helps in realizing the impermanence of every situation. One can actually experience that there is nothing, except the soul, which stays unaltered. Thereby he realizes the futility of indulging in craving or aversion towards any situation and learns to remain merely a spectator. This helps in maintaining equanimity in all the circumstances.

Situations of happiness or unhappiness, prosperity or poverty, respect or disrespect arise as consequences of one's Karma. The essence of spiritual pursuit lies in passing through such dualities without any complaint or grumbling and in peacefully accepting what happens from time to time. Acceptance of every situation with an unimpassioned mind without indulging in attachment or aversion is the Tap that effectively eradicates the bondage of Karma. It is the quickest way of gaining Nirjarā. The Lord was observing that Tap during the period of his spiritual pursuit. During that time he came across many occasions of adversities and affliction, but he never tried to resist them. On the contrary, when Indra himself offered to protect him from the anticipated atrocities, the Lord declined to accept that offer. He knew that whatever was going to come was the result of his own Karma and he alone had to bear the same.

Two other aspects of the Lord's life that should attract our attention are the fearlessness and the absence of desire. When he renounced the worldly life, he not only gave up all the possessions and worldly connections, but also abjured every sort of desire. He did not even care for the safety or the well being of the body. He could therefore go to the woodland where the poisonous Chandakaushik had his abode and was not scared or perturbed, even when the snake bit him. As such, it would not be hard to understand how he could stay care free about the primary needs of the body like food or sleep. His only aspiration was to seek Self-realization and the body was merely an instrument to reach that objective.

Another important aspect of his life pertains to his staying unclad. That uncladness is not an exclusively Digambar concept.

SPIRITUAL PURSUIT OF LORD MAHĀVEER AND HIS MISSION (Cont..)

Āchārāṅg Sutra, the first and the foremost Shwetāmbar Āgam, clearly states that the cloth, which was put on his shoulder by Indra at the time of renunciation, was discarded after one year. It means that the Lord did not put on any cloth during the remaining 41 years of his life. Thus the difference between Shwetāmbar and Digambar concepts is narrowed down to his remaining unclad for 41 years or 42 years. The question that arises is why did he decide to go unclad. It needs to be remembered that spiritual pursuit is not meant to gain anything from outside. All the required attributes are inherent within the soul. They are not to be gained; they are simply to be manifested. That can be done by getting rid of all the internal as well as external aspects that obscure the true nature of soul. The spiritual pursuit involves divesting of everything unrelated to soul. The Lord's uncladness was a part of that divesting process.

At the end of his spiritual pursuit when the Lord realized the Self, he gained thorough insight and could see the truth in all its perspectives. He therefore wanted to set up the truth as the essence of spiritualism. During his time there were many thinkers who advocated futility of the spiritual activities. The Lord wanted to counter such thinking and to establish truth as the foundation of spiritual endeavor. For him truth and liberation were indivisible. He therefore laid down that false beliefs and wrong thinking are the source of the misery and evils. He was, however, aware that the people tend to resort to such beliefs and thinking out of ignorance and wrong perception. He therefore laid down the attainment of right perception as the basis of spiritual development.

In Jain tradition, right perception is known as Samyaktva. That can arise either by destruction or pacification of the long lasting defilements. The former is known as Kshāyik Samyaktva and the latter as Aupashamic. In either of the cases, the defilements are not in the operative stage. In the latter case, however, the defilements are not destroyed. They stay settled down and can arise again whenever opportunity occurs. As such, the spiritual aspirant going ahead with the Aupashamic Samyaktva is liable to fall. The Lord therefore insisted on gaining Kshāyik Samyaktva.

Whatever exists in the universe can either be animate or inanimate. The most significant category of the inanimate matters is termed as Pudgal. In a way that term is unique to Jainism. It literally means that which continues to gain and lose and that is exactly the property of Pudgal. The worldly life arises on account of interaction of Pudgal on the soul. Prior to the birth of science, the Lord could state about the existence of subatomic particles of Pudgal which are known as Paramānu.

The primary concern of the Lord, however, was regarding soul that abides in every living being. That is the only matter, which has the capability to experience the pleasure and pain. The Lord has stipulated that every being wants to live happily and no one is therefore entitled to hurt or inflict pain to other beings. He called

for reverence for every living being and raised his hand against hurting other beings on any ground. He therefore laid down non-violence as the basic tenet. He exhorted his followers to behave in a way that would make others happy and urged them to sacrifice their own comforts and convenience for the sake of others. This involves adoption of restraints and of an austere mode of living. Therefore, nonviolence, restraint and austerity constitute the anchor sheets of his teaching.

The Lord's main emphasis was on realizing the true nature of soul. He knew that truth is inherent within every matter. He therefore defined religion as Vattu Sahāvo Dhammo. It means that religion is the nature of matter. Every soul is imbibed with infinite knowledge, perception, happiness and vigor. These attributes are not manifest at present, because worldly souls are under the impact of undesirable instincts. Those instincts are the outcome of Karma acquired by indulging in likes and dislikes. If one overcomes his likes and dislikes and stays equanimous in every situation, he would not acquire new Karma. Since old Karmas give way after bearing the consequences, such person can attain the Karmaless state. That is the state of liberation and everlasting happiness, which can be attained by every soul. This shows the thoroughly democratic approach of Jainism. No other religion stipulates such potentialities for every one.

Another important aspect of Lord's teaching that has not received proper attention pertains to tolerance. It is noticed that distrust, discords and disputes are the source of the strife and unrest. They arise from the intolerance of differing views. The Lord has said that every view can have some element of truth. His teaching urges respect for even the partial truth of every one. This is known as Syādvād. It calls for tolerating the differing views and thus strikes at the root of all discords. If his teaching is properly heeded to, all unnecessary quarrels and disputes would come to the end and an era of lasting peace can prevail.

By propounding Syādvād, the Lord has presented the most effective method to end all disputes. He laid down that all the view points are subjective and every one of them is likely to have some validity. If we examine others' views from their standpoints and accept the element of truth therein, they would feel at ease and may be inclined to examine our view. In that case it becomes easier to get to the real truth which can be a synthesis of the partial and relative truths.

As followers of Lord Mahāveer, it is our duty to study and comprehend the concepts of truth, tolerance and temperance. They can also be termed as Satya, Syādvād and Sanyam. If we take them beyond the narrow confines of Jainism, that would do much good to the world at large and that would be the best thing that we can do as the follower of the Lord's tenets. This message needs to be adopted particularly in this year of 26th centenary of Lord's birth.

LORD MAHAVIR'S GANDHARAS AND JAIN MASTERS

Dr. Pravin L. Shah, Reading, PA

This year we are celebrating the 2600th Janmakalyanak of Lord Mahavir. As we rejoice Mahavir's centennial celebrations all over the world, let us go through some of great Jain Masters that have followed the footsteps of Lord Mahavir and have given us the divine knowledge in form of invaluable Jain Texts describing Lord's Teachings based on their own self realization knowledge. Without these priceless scriptures prepared by these great Jain Masters over the last 2000 years, we would be without any documented Teachings of Lord Mahavir at the present time.

GAUTAM SWAMI – FIRST GANDHAR (500 B.C.)

Lord Mahavir attained omniscient knowledge (Kevalgnan) at age 42 and He established Jain Tirtha consisting of four-fold Sangh comprised of Sadhus, Sadhvijs, Shravaks, and Shravikas. Lord Mahavir gave his sermons for thirty years until he attained Moxa at age 72. During these thirty years, Lord's teachings were compiled primarily by most revered Gandhar, Gautam Swamiji. His real name was Indrabhuti and he came from a Brahmin family and considered himself as the best scholar of divine knowledge of the Vedas. When Indrabhuti was invited to have a dialogue with Shri Mahavir, he thought it will be so easy to defeat Shri Mahavir in matter of minutes. He accepted the challenge of the debate with Mahavir Swami on the condition that if he lost the debate, he will become Mahavir's disciple.

As soon as Indrabhuti along with his many Vedanta disciples met Lord Mahavir their ego melted away and bowed down to the Lord and created a well known prayer "Namuthunam". He had doubts about Atman but Lord Mahavir gave him the divine vision and Gautam Swami attained Samkit at the very moment and became the first Gandhar of Lord Mahavir and attained four fold Knowledge (Mati, Shrut, Avadhi and Man Pryava knowledge). Gautam Swami composed our twelve Agam Texts including the fourteen Purvas which contain millions of verses. Every Jain disciple worships Gautam Swami with utmost respect and reverence. Gautam swami attained omniscient knowledge the same day Lord Mahavir attained Moxa.

SUDHARAMA SWAMI & JAMBU SWAMI (500-400 B.C.)

Sudharama Swami was the fifth Gandhara of the Lord who attained omniscient knowledge after Gautam Swamiji. Sudharama Swami composed the most revered Jain text "Utradhyayan Sutra" commonly known as the Last Sermon Of Lord Mahavir. Jains consider this text as the most authoritative text as it contains the dialogue between the Lord and Gautam Swami narrated by Shri Sudharama Swami. The thirty six chapters of Utradhyayan Sutra condense the entire philosophy in Q and A format.

Jambu Swami was the last Kevali who attained omniscient knowledge from the teachings of his Master Sudhrama Swami. Bhadrabau Swami was the last "Shrut Kevali" who composed very popular Sutra we recite every day : Uvasagharam Sutra, and many other texts. Up to the time of Bhadrabahu Swami, Jain Masters of his caliber were able to memorize all the Agam texts including the fourteen Purvas. Today we can not even recite our Chaitya Vandan Sutras properly, let alone understand the meaning of each Sutra!! With passing of time, capacity of the Jain Masters decreased to memorize all the Purvas which lead the eminent Acharyas to compose new scriptures starting with the first and foremost masterpiece listed below by Umaswati Acharya

ACHARYA UMASWATI (100 B.C.)

In Christian religion the most popular book is Bible, in Hinduism it is Gita, and in Jainism the most popular and respected text is Tatvarth Sutra composed by Acharya Umaswati some two thousand years ago. Acharya Haribhadra and Yasovijayji have said often that Acharya Umaswati must be a "Shrut kevali" to compose such epic as Tatvarthsutra which represents a condensed nectar of all Agam Sutras and a complete thesis on Jain Metaphysics in a scientific way. It is the first text in Sanskrit in Jain literature dating back 2000 years ago.

To illustrate the uniqueness and importance of this great text, one needs to examine the commentaries written on Tatvarthsutra by the most eminent Acharyas, including a detailed commentary known as "Sarvarthsiddhi" by Acharya Pujiyapad, "Gandhahasti" by Samatbhadra Acharya, and two other commentaries by Aklankdev and Prabachandra Acharyas. Scholars, Pundits still cannot comprehend the depth of Tatvarthsutra. It is said that only Umaswati could compose such a text, no one else could do it! He also composed ten other texts of great importance including Prashamrati. All the Jain masters have frequently quoted Sutras from Tatvarthsutra as an authoritative reference material next only to the Agam Sutras.

ACHARYA KUNDKUND (50 B.C. – 50 A.D.)

Acharya Kundkund was from South Indian town Kondkonda and he took Digambar Dixa at age 11 to become the most revered and authoritative Jain Master after Lord Mahavir. He composed ninety great scriptures in his life time of ninety two years. Five of his scriptures are worshiped today as Agam texts by all Jain followers and are considered complete and most comprehensive texts of Dravyanuyog : (1) Samayasar, (2) Pravachansar, (3) Niyamsar, (4) Pancastikay, and (5) Ashta Pahud. No other Jain text is equal to these five masterpieces in Jain metaphysics

LORD MAHAVIR'S GANDHARAS..... (Cont..)

of soul and matter. Numerous prominent authors have generously used these texts as reference material in their epic works including great masters like Pujiyapad, Yasovijayji, and Shrimad Rajchandraji. It is said that he was able to personally visit and meet Lord Simandhar swami for eight days after which he returned to India and composed these five great texts.

ACHARYA PUJIYAPADSWAMI (150 A.D.)

Pujiyapad Swami accepted Digambar Dixa at age 15 and lived to be seventy three. During his lifetime, he made major contributions to Jain literature by composing such great epics as Samadhi Shatak, Ishtopadesh, and Sarvarthsiddhi (most comprehensive commentary on Tatvarthsutra). His most memorable work, Samadhi Shatak, is regarded as Jain Gita and it is a must for a serious disciple to study for self realization. Pujiyapad Acharya had tremendous spiritual powers to condense the nectar of fourteen Purvas in one text like Samadhi Shatak and its contributions to the spiritual world are priceless.

ACHARYA HARIBHADRA (700 A.D.)

I might say that Acharya Haribhadra Suri can be called the Bhishma Pitamah of Jain literature. He composed 1,444 scriptures in his life time of ninety years. No other Jain Master has made such monumental contribution to our scriptures since the time of Lord Mahavir. At present we have approximately eighty five texts of Haribhadra Suri available for our study. The other books have been lost over time. He was not only a great self realized Yogi of highest caliber, but also had enormous divine powers and mastery over Sanskrit and Prakrit to compose such eternal epics as : (1) Yog Drasti Samuchaaya, (2) Yog Bindu, (3) Dharma Bindu, (4) Lalit Vistara, (5) Yog Shatak, (6) Shodshak, (7) Shata Darshan Samuchaya, (8) Yog Vishinka, etc. Acharya Haribhadra is the most authoritative and perhaps the most eminent Yogi in Jain history. Pundit Sukhlalji called him "*Samdrasta Haribhadra*" meaning a great yogi with equal respect for all saints of all faiths and walks. Haribhadra Acharya was a real example of a *Sthitapragna Muni* described by Lord Krishna in the second chapter of Bhagavad Gita.

ACHARYA AMRATCHANDRA (1000 A.D.)

Acharya Kundkund's Samayasara is considered as a real epic of our time. It is with pride to say that it was the genius of Acharya Amrat Chandra who composed such a brilliant and lucid commentary on Samayasara known as Atmakhyati that gave Samayasara a new dimension to comprehend the depth of the original text. Acharya Amrat Chandra's mastery over Sanskrit is absolutely

astounding and perhaps best in Jain literature. He also wrote a commentary on Pravachansara and Panchastikay, the two other master pieces of Acharya Kundkund. When one studies these commentaries, one gets amazed at the depth of the knowledge of Amratchandra Acharya on the Dravyanuyoga (Jain metaphysics). In fact he composed his own texts known as Purusarthsiddhi Upaya and Tatvanushashan which are great epics. It can be said that if it was not for these commentaries of Amratchandra, we would have never been able to comprehend the real meaning of Samayasara and other master texts.

ACHARYA HEMCHANDRA (1200 A.D)

After Acharya Haribhadra, Jainism began to be divided into many sects and dogmas and the followers began to drift into rituals and blind faith. Need for a revolutionary Master was at its peak when Acharya Hemchandra came into rescuing the breakdown of the Jain religion. He is given the credit for reviving the true Jain philosophy laid by Lord Mahavir and Hemchandra's brilliance and yogic powers revitalized the spirit of true Jain philosophy and worship. His time is considered as a golden period for Jainism as Hemchandra helped many great kings follow non violence in day to day life. King Kumarpal of Gujarat accepted Hemchandra as his Kulguru. Hemchandra composed many great epics like Yogshastra, Syadvadmanjari and HemVyakaran. Like Haribhadra, Hemchandra was also a great writer and was very fluent in Sanskrit and Prakrit and he is given the credit for establishing the grammar and composition for the Gujarati language.

YOGIRAJ ANANDGHANJI (1700 A.D.)

After Hemchandra's great efforts to unify Jain community, things went from bad to worse in a few hundred years. Need for another revolutionary Master was very crucial. Fortunately with God's grace, we are gifted by two eminent Acharya's of this time. Andanganji (and Yasovijayji) was a great Yogi and a highly self realized saint who made major efforts to unify the Jains all over the country. Unfortunately the blind ritualistic practice of worship was so deep-rooted that even Anandganji was unable to break this wrong following. Nevertheless, he composed immortal Stavans (songs) in Gujarati and Hindi which are revered today by all spiritual followers with great interest. His Tirthankar Chovisi is most well known and is studied at various levels in temples and Jain schools.

YASOVIJAYJI UPADHYAY (1700 A.D.)

Yasovijayji Updhyay is a contemporary of Yogi Aandganji and in fact Yasovijayji considered Anadganji as his true spiritual master. Today we take great pride in linking Yasovijayji's name with other Jain Master Haribhadra in terms of his contribution and depth of Jain philosophy. Yasovijayji took Dixa at age 5 and went to Kashi to study Sanskrit and Prakrit. There he became a great scholar of these languages and studied all Jain Agam texts at very young age. He composed more than one hundred (100) scriptures in his life time. Some of his masterpieces include Adhyatmasar, Gnansar, Adhyatmaupnishad, Updesh Rahasya, etc. Like Andaganji, Yaosvijayji also made a major effort to steer the crowd mentality from blind following of rituals to true spiritual pursuits by his immortal Stavans and songs. It is accurate to say that in Lord Mahavir's following, Yasovijayji has been the last eminent Upadhyay to give us the precious gift of so many epic scriptures equal to Agam texts in value.

SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA (1868-1901)

Shrimad Rajchandra, a great seer and highly self realized Master was born only 100 years ago in Gujarat in 1868. At age seven, Shrimad attained Atma-samadhi and was able to "see" his 900 past lives. Shrimad says in his own words, "I was a disciple of Lord Mahavir in the previous life".

At age 13 Shrimad had studied all the Agam texts in full and began composing his own spiritual writings of great merit. At age 16 he wrote his first great text Moxmala which is considered as modern age's Utradhyayan Sutra. Shrimad attained Xayic Samkit at age 23 and composed his immortal epic Atamsiddhi Shastra after attaining fullest form of pure consciousness. His biggest contribution to the Jain literature is in the form of more than 900 letters written to his disciples and this work is collected in a text known popularly as Vachanamrut.

In his epic work Atmasiddhi Shrimad has condensed the essence of 14 Purvas in 142 verses only. Nevertheless, this epic provides a complete workbook for a disciple where the pitfalls are in spiritual Sadhana. In his short life span of 33 years, Shrimadji has made monumental contribution to Jain literature and his life itself is an everlasting light to provide guidance and inspiration to each student of spiritual quest.

Let us offer our humble tribute to our Lord on this 2600th Janma Kalyanak and our deep respect to all the great Jain Masters that have followed His great footsteps and have given us invaluable scriptures to pursue the original path of self realization prescribed by Lord Mahavir to find eternal bliss and liberation from the cycle of pain, misery, birth and death. *Namoloe Savva Sahunam.*

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF SHRI MAHAVIR JAIN VIDYALAYA

The International Alumni Association of Shri Mahavir Jain Vidyalaya (IAAMJV) held its biennial general body meeting on July 8, 2001 during the JAINA Convention in Chicago. The meeting began with a presentation by Anop Vora describing the progress that the association has made to date. Highlights of this discussion included a review of the tremendous growth of the association and the activities and achievements made over the last 10 years. One example of these achievements was the new branch of Mahavir Jain Vidyalaya that was inaugurated on February 12th in Udaipur (Rajasthan State). The association credited Dr. Mohan Jain (Allentown, Pa) and his team for their superb dedication in bringing this project to reality.

The success of IAAMJV is based on the support from the community. In recognition of this fact, the following people were recognized for their generous contributions: Dr. Mohanlal and Mrs. Kamla Bafna, Mr. Dinesh and Mrs. Sangita Bafna, Dr. Kala and Dr. Nikhil (Bafna) Amesur, Mr. Suresh and Mrs. Gunvanti Bafna, Mr. Pravin and Mrs. Harsha Shah, Mr. Chhaganlal and Mrs. Induben Bapna, Drs. Mahesh and Indu Varia, Dr. Babubhai and Nangnooch Pragani, Dr. Chandrakant and Mrs. Devyani Shah, and Mr. Babulal and Mrs. Mangla Bafna.

The Constitution of IAAMJV requires the election of the Executive Committee members for a two-year term. The following were declared elected for the coming term (2001-2003):

Rajnikant T. Shah	Warrenville, IL	President
Anop Vora	Rochester, NY	Vice President
Rasik Shah	Elk Grove, IL	General Secretary
Ramesh Fofaria	Garner, NC	Treasurer
Mahendra C. Shah	MapleGrove, MN	Communication

Ramesh Fofaria presented the financial report of the association. Dr. Dinesh Shah outlined the progress of the USA scholarship program. In addition, Mr. Dipchand Gardi and Dr. Mohan Jain addressed the meeting. Questions from attendees and a proposal to begin membership fees were also discussed. Rasik Shah closed the meeting with a vote of thanks.

Submitted by Rajnikant T. Shah

CANADA

Dr. Mahendra Mehta, Regional Editor

TORONTO, ONT

The Toronto Jain Sangh celebrated 2001 Paryushan Parva in greater number this year and best so far. The Executive Committee of the Jain Centre organized the whole Parva exceedingly well with facilities for Tapasvis to sleep over at the Centre, three fresh meals provided everyday to anyone who came to the Centre and a full day's program everyday. One mother of two said when our Centre provided such facilities as it did, her eight fasts became possible. There were eight individuals who performed "Athai Tap" and one lady did 'Kheer Samudra' or fifteen day fast. Many more tapasvis did six, three, one fast.

We were fortunate to have **Dr. Jitendra Shah, M.A., Ph.D., Acharya, Jain Darshan** during Paryushan Parva. Dr. Shah is the youngest Director of L.D. Institute of Indology in Ahmedabad, an institute that has spearheaded searching, collecting, preserving, deciphering and cataloguing Jain and other manuscripts and now has an invaluable collection of 75,000 different manuscripts.

The morning started with Snatra Puja followed by the Kalpa Sutra reading then on to lunch. In the afternoon Jitendrabhai began 2-hour lucid explanation of Yashovijayji's Adhyatmasar. This treatise written some 300 years ago contains 933 slokas in Sanskrit and difficult to understand for mere mortals. But Jitendrabhai made it interesting and understandable.

In the evening after light supper and Pratikraman talks on varied subjects such as Great Acharyas of Jainism, Tools of Self realisation, Rules for the Sravak and many more interesting topics.

The Swapana Darshan was so well attended that many had to congregate outside the Jain centre. The funds raised during the afternoon, highest so far, reflected the excitement of all the participants.

The 'Daslaxana' celebrations was carried on by a dedicated members. They performed puja, swadhyay and Pravachan every day. Pandit Dhirubhai gave talk on the importance of DasLaxana.

Our next visitor to Toronto was **Panditji Dhirubhai Mehta**. Panditji continued with Anandganji's poetry celebrating twenty-four Tirthanakars. Bhartiben Ghatalia sang the stanzas in appropriate raga and Panditji explained in detail the meaning of each line. There was a very good attendance for this presentation. Panditji also continued with Tattvarth Sutra, again started 3 years ago and completed last two chapters this time.

Before Paryushan, we also had a weekend visit from **Samanijis Akshay Prajna** and **Sanamati Prajna** during July 20-22. Samanijis' presentation on Relaxation Techniques and Preksha Dhyana Meditation was well attended and much appreciated.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

At the Interfaith Prayer service to welcome the athletes for the 2001 World Games held in Edmonton, J.V.Mehta represented AlbertaJains.

The funds raised for Gujarat Earthquake Relief Funds in Edmonton, \$15,000 was approved to be channelled through JAINA and \$25,000 was sent to the Anarde Foundation of the Chandaria Family. More funds are expected from other sources. Jitendra & Neeta Koticha hosted the Savantsari Pratikraman on August 22. Ashvin & JayshreeShah distributed a CD titled Prabhu Pooja as Prabhavana for the occasion.

SOUTHWEST

Jadavji Kenia, Regional Editor

NORTH TEXAS (DALLAS AREA)

This year the Jain Society of North Texas was represented by as many as 60 people at the JAINA Convention which is the most

we have ever had from this area. During this summer we had many dignitaries starting with Shri Niraj Jain in June who explained the Samyak Darshan in great detail mainly in a Q&A form. Dr. Bharill visited us in July after the JAINA Convention and covered a chapter from the Samaysar. Pandit Dhirajbhai Mehta came during the Das Laxan days and covered the ten types of Yati Dharma in Hindi in his very simplistic style. He also introduced the Eight Drushtis Sajjay which will be covered in future. Sunandaben Vohra came in early September and covered reasons and ways to keep on attaining Sadgati and avoid Durgati. Paryushan Parva celebration with daily Pratikraman and Tapasya for eight days leading to the Das Laxan Parva and continued through September 1st with Pujas and Swadhyay sessions. Swapna darshan ceremony started with Snatra Puja and usual Ghee bolis. Samvatsari Pratikraman was held at two places on August 22nd. Pratikraman in English (for the benefit of our youth) was conducted on Sunday, August 5, 2001. DasLaxan Pratikraman was on September 1 and Kshnavani Puja on Sep. 3rd. Besides 11 upvas by Ami Lakdawala and 9 upvas by Damjibhai Shah there were 10 Atthais and various other Tapasya. Swami Vatsalya is scheduled for Sep. 16. JSNT contact is our current president Swatee Kalamkar at 972-530-7356. JSNT web site is DFWJains.org.

PHOENIX, AZ

Jain Center of Greater Phoenix observed Paryushan Parva. Bharatbhai Shah, a Jain scholar from Ghatkopar - Mumbai, gave Pravachans after the daily Pratikraman. Mahavir Janma and Sapna darshan took place on Sunday and over 125 people participated in it. Samvatsari Pratikramans were held in Gujarati and in English for children. Parna ceremony was held on August 23rd followed by Dash-Laxana Parva. During Paryushan there were three Atthais

including and one by a child plus there were many other tapasyas. The Swamivatsalya and young tapasvis' bahuman will be hosted on September 23rd. Other activities planned in near future are Guru Jayanti celebration and the Annual Jain Camp. For other details, visit www.azindia.com > Jain Center Of Greater Phoenix web page.

Contact for JCGP is Mehul Rajparia, email: jain_phoenix@hotmail.com.

MIDWEST

Manubhai Doshi, Regional Editor

CHICAGO, IL

The drive for collecting usable clothes for distribution in India was very successful this year. 397 packages of the clothes were sent to Bachubhai Ajmera Maryland for forwarding to India. Niranjana Shah, Dilip and Nalini Shah were very helpful in preparing the packages. The cost of domestic transport, was paid by Indira Mansukhlal Doshi Memorial Trust.

The 8th Pratishtha anniversary celebration of our temple was organized during the last weekend of June. 18 anointing ceremonies were performed on that occasion under the guidance of Babubhai Kadiwala.

To encourage the study and awareness of Jainism, an open book test and Jain Academic Bowl were conducted (*see detailed report on Page 18.*)

Annual picnic was held on August 5 at Cook County Forest Preserve about 250 people participated.

Paryushan Parva was celebrated in the presence of Shreyans Shah of Bombay. He gave talks every day. Moreover, programs for youth were conducted by Pravin Shah of N. Carolina. Swarkinnari group was invited to conduct Bhavna during the Parva. There was a record attendance on the occasion of Lord Mahavir's Janma-vanchan on August 15. The enthusiasm raised for heralding the birth of Lord Mahavir was noteworthy. The Samvatsari Pratikraman was

on August 22 in English and Gujarati. More than 1200 people participated.

Many people observed various austerities on the occasion of Paryushan. 43 persons with 8 fast or more, 4 persons with 7 fasts, one Akshaynidhi Tap and one Varshi Tap. 43 three days' fast and 29 children under the age 11 observed one day's fast. All of them were honored on September 2.

Dashlaxana Parva was celebrated from August 23 to September 1 under the guidance of Anupam Shah. 26th August was marked by a talk on Jainism by Acharya Chandanaji. There was an attendance of about 100 families on the last day. Pratikraman was performed on that day.

DETROIT, MI

The past three months in Detroit had been very eventful. Over 100 students put on a program called "Bhagavan Mahavir-2600 Years Back In Time". The program consisted of different plays, stories, and dances displaying the life of Lord Mahavir during the last 27 lives. The trophies were awarded to the participants.

On June 1, there was a fundraising event called "Bhakti Sandhya". Purushottamdas Jalota played the music for the evening. More than 500 people attended the event to hear him and to donate for the temple.

The Father's Day picnic was held at Camp Dearborn. Many members joined in fun filled day at the park.

The June 29 weekend witnessed the celebration of the third Pratishtha anniversary. Shri Babubhai Kadiwala and his two grandsons assisted in performing Siddhachakra Pujan, 108 Arhant Abhishek Mahapujan, & Dhawaja ceremonies. The Swamivatsalya dinner was prepared by the youths.

The members of the Jain society joined the Indian Detroit community in an organization called India Earthquake Relief Organization of Michigan. That organization collected more than \$500,000 to be distributed to the people in need.

In July there were series of discourses by Sunandaben Vohra and Kiranbhai Parekh, that focused on the enhancement of spiritual knowledge.

Paryushana Parva was celebrated. Rafiqbhai and Fakirbhai of Kutch provided Bhakti-sangeet on that occasion.

The installation ceremony of 24 Tirthankars on the periphery of the temple's sanctum is being planned during the summer of 2002. The information about the temple and the Society is available on the Website www.jaintemple-detroit.com

ST. LOUIS

The Paryushan Parva was celebrated from August 15 to August 22 under the able guidance of Roopchandji Maharaj. His discourses on the occasion were thought provoking and knowledgeable.

WEST

Chandrakant Parekh, Regional Editor

LOS ANGELES, CA

Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC) celebrated the 12th anniversary of the inauguration of the Jain Bhavan with shikhar dhawjas changing ceremony and an Adhar Abhishek Pujan performed by Pandit Nirmalbhai Doshi on July 1. In recognition of the 26th centennial birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir, Pujya Nirmalbhai gave a lecture on the life of the 24th Tirthankar. Pandit Dhirajlal Mehta, a popular visitor, gave lectures on Pandit Yashovijayji Vicharit Gyansar Ashtak from July 10-21. Shri Rajendrabhai Dalal conducted the 24 Tirthankar Maha Pujan on July 15. Dr. Jitendrabhai Shah, Director of L. D. Institute of Indology, delivered pravachans from Aug 1-4. Shri Manojbhai Haran conducted a bhavana on Aug 7.

Paryushan Parva was celebrated under the direction of Sunandaben Vohra, She presented discourses on different aspects of

Jainism. A program of lectures and Samvatsari Pratikraman in English was conducted. Mangalam, an accomplished classical music artist, presented a bhavana on Aug 18. Shri Shekharchandra Jain, publisher of *Tirthankar Vani*, led the celebration of Das Lakshana Maha Parva. Tapascharya included 1 varsitap, 1 16-upvas, 3 11-upvas, 3 9-upvas, and 26 adults and 20 children observed athai (8-upvas).

Following several months of intensive efforts by the Architect, the consultants, the Building Committee and various sub-committees, a design package for Phase 1 of the project was submitted for approval to the City of Buena Park in May 2001. Also, the Architect is designing Phase 2 of the project, which focuses on the renovation of the existing building, and the Derasar. The renovation of the Post Office building will be addressed in future as Phase 3.

Information on any activities are posted on JCSC's website at www.jaincenter.net. or contact Sumatibhai Shah, President, at 562/926-4075 or: sumati1@hotmail.com

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) celebrated the first anniversary of the Jain Bhawan with a two-day program on August 4-5. Nearly 1,500 people participated in the prayer ceremonies and pujas conducted in all the major Jain traditions. International Jain Vidhikar Shashan Ratna Manojkumar B. Haran of Margoa, India conducted some of the pujas and was accompanied by Shri Mohan Gulecha from Chenia, India, who sang bhakti songs. Samaniji Mangalpragyaji, Samaniji Vineetpragyaji, and Sunandaben Vohra graced the auspicious event, which also included changing of Shikhar Dhawjas, a *Varghodo* around the temple, and a Ras Garba program. The entire program was webcast live on the Internet.

Shri Manojbhai Haran performed the 108 Parshvanath Pujan on August 12. Paryushan Parva was celebrated under the

direction of Acharya Chandanji and Sadhvi Sampragyaj and Bhavna were presented by Vasantbhai Khokhani. Dr. Jaykumar Upadhye presented religious discourses during the celebration of Das Lakshana.

Information about forthcoming programs and regular activities are posted on JCNC's website at www.jcnc.org. For additional information, please contact Jay Itchhaporia, JCNC President, at 408/263-8739 or e-mail: Itchhaporia@yahoo.com.

SACRAMENTO, CA

Jain Center of Greater Sacramento (JCGS) organizes a number of activities, religious celebrations, and lectures by visiting dignitaries. Samaniji Mangalpragyaji and Samaniji Vineetpragyaji gave pravachans on Aug 1-3. Samaniji Charitrapragyaji and Samaniji Shardapragya have arrived for a one-month visit and will present a series of lectures. They led the Paryushan Maha Parva celebrations. For additional information, please contact Manoj Desai at 916/791-4111 or e-mail: mira_family@yahoo.com.

SAN DIEGO, CA

Jain Society of San Diego (JSSD) was addressed by Saman Shrutpragyaji, Pujya Manekmuni and Pandit Dhirajlal Mehta during May-July. A replica of Pavapuri Jal Mandir made by Nipul Shah was presented at the JAINA convention in Chicago. Also, Dr. Kokila Doshi organized four sessions at the convention, two for the YJA and two for the adults, on such topics such as - Comparison between Jainism and Hinduism, and A Jain Model of Liberation. Regular activities organized by JSSD include - a monthly Jainshala for children, adult classes, swadhyay by Girishbhai Shah, and a weekly pooja every Saturday at Shri Mandir. For additional information, please contact Kokilaben Doshi at 858/679-7645 or e-mail: kdoshi@acusd.edu.

SEATTLE, WA

Paryshan parva was celebrated with a program of snatra pooja, a children's program, swapna darshan, lecture by Mr. Prakash Jain, aarti, mangal divo, shanti kalash and a fellowship dinner. Pratikaman was organized at three places and included one in English. Monthly pathshala has an enrolment of 14 students and is directed by Alina Shah. During Diwali, the students will present a play titled, "The Moral Stories of Bhagvan Mahavir" which was scripted by Alina. Parent volunteers are helping to produce the scenery, costumes, and props. For more information, please contact Alina at 206/236-0170 or e-mail: mithi_rajkumari@hotmail.com. For additional information, please contact Mukesh Jain at 425/558-1949 or email: mukeshj@microsoft.com.

CINCINNATI & DAYTON, OH

Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton had following activities during summer 01.

1.Center organized a special dinner program and raised over \$35,000 to help the victims of earthquake in Gujarat.

2.The Center organized the Snatra Puja by youths with the help of Mr. Ashok Sanghavi of Indiana. He explained it in English to youths and adults.

3. The Cincinnati Art Museum has acquired a statue of Bhagwan Parasnath for the first time in its history.

4. About 40 individuals from our Center attended the JAINA Convention.

5.Samanji Sthitpragya and Shrutpragya gave discourses during Paryushan. On Samvatsari Day, we conducted Pratikraman in English and regular Pratikraman.

6.TheCenter performed Anant Chaturdashi puja on 10th day of Das Laxna. This also coincides with the 6th anniversary of our temple's pratistha.

7.Our center has submitted a letter of intent to JAINA to host the next convention in July 2003 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

NORTHEAST*Dinesh Chheda, Regional Editor***BOSTON, MA**

Jain Center of Greater Boston is getting ready for Pratistha/ Murti Sthapan in spring 2002 at Jain temple in Norwood Massachusetts. Further details of Pratistha will be made available in the next issue. Many other Activities Paryushan/Dashlaxan Parva were celebrated for eighteen days. Daily discourses by Muni Roopchandji, and Dr. Shekharchandji of Ahmedabad were well attended. After the eighteen days of celebrations, Kshamapana, the day of forgiveness was celebrated on September 3rd. Dr. Bharat Shah of New York was the chief guest. The program was followed by swami vatsalya. As in previous conventions, JCGB played an active role and participated in Jaina Convention in Chicago, Level 4 & 5, Pathshala students presented a game show Tic-tack-toe: Three Jewels in a Row. The intent of this show was to demonstrate that practices of Jainism in every day life are not difficult. The format of this show was based on the hit TV game show 'Hollywood Squares'. 27 children and adults took the open book exam and our participation was placed 2nd among all Jain centers. Level 6 Pathshala adult students presented the program, 'Comparative Study of Religions' viz. Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism via interactive slide show, dialogue and discussions in a drama like fashion.

Jain Center has joined with JAINA in the project 'Vardhaman Nagar' at Kutch, Gujarat. JCGB has sponsored a high school at Vardhaman Niagar. A donation of \$30,000 has been pledged to JAINA for this project. Members of JCGB donated very generously for this cause. Ahimsa, a documentary by Michael Tobias was exhibited by Boston Vegetarian Society on August 19. This hour long movie shows the Jain way of life in great details. After the movie, the

eager audience asked many questions which JCGB members replied.

We always look forward to new ideas in promoting Jain principles. For additional information please visit our web site www.jcgb.org <<http://www.jcgb.org>>. For participating in any of the activities of the Jain Center, please contact President Mr. Suren Shah at 508-949-3914, or Vice President Dilip Gandhi at 508-872-6979.

ESSEX FELS, NY

Sangh members were fortunate to hear the lectures given by Shri Jinchandraji Maharaj, Kumarpalbhai Desai and by Kiranbhai Parekh and Dhirajbhai Mehta. Students of Pathshala were awarded certificates for completing / graduating a year and also had their annual summer picnic. More than 185 students attend Pathshala classes on a regular basis. Paryushna parva was celebrated with vigor and enthusiasm under the auspicious presence of Gurudev Chitrabhanuji and Pramodaben. Pramodaben gave lectures on the Life of Mahavirswami according to Kalpasutra and Gurudev Chitrabhanuji spoke on different subjects relating to Jain philosophy. Arvindbhai Bhandari again volunteered to be a speaker for youth. There were more than 75 Tapasvies who did 8 or more Upvas. Tapasvies were felicitated at the Derasar. Snatra Pooja was performed everyday during Paryushna by Virendra Shah with the help from others.

YJA Convention in 2002 will be hosted by youth of Essex Fells Centre. More than 95 members of the Jain Center took part in Chaitya Paripaty trip to Siddhachalam, Allentown, PA temple, Samarpan Temple in Philadelphia, and Pennsauken (Cherry Hill), NJ Dehrasar. Jain Center had pleasure in welcoming members of the Washington, D. C. Jain Sangh during their Chaitya Paripaty.

The fund raising drive for the Franklin Township site has started and getting good

support from the members. Monthly Samuh Samayik, Pathshala, bi-weekly Swadhaya classes have started after the summer vacation. If you would like to visit desasar or attend a program, please call Diwakar Shah at 908 - 754 - 0891.

WASHINGTON, DC

Paryushan Parva was celebrated with Pravachan in the morning and evening by Diptiben Shah, a Jain scholar from Mumbai. Swapna darshan ceremony held on August 18 was recorded by PBS TV station, and a 4-minute summary was broadcasted throughout the nation on September 26. Fifteen persons along with Diptiben Shah stayed at the Jain temple throughout the Paryushan Parva. Ramnikbhai Savla gave pravachans during Das Lakshan Parva. A series of Pravachans by Pundit Dhirajlal Mehta will be held on Sept 21-23.1

MINNESOTA, MN

JAIN CENTER OF MINNESOTA celebrated 2600th Janmakalyanak of Bhagwan Mahavir with a skit on Abhay Kumar, bhajans, speeches by young children and Namokar Mantras by children under 7 years old. This program was attended by about 350 people in the Hindu Mandir in Minneapolis. In addition, we participated actively in Gujarat Relief Fund activity and contributed \$4000 for this cause. Samanjis Shrutpragya and Shitpragya visited MN in May and their lectures and prayers were held at various homes and at the University of MN. We also celebrated Paryushan and Daslakshan parva and forgiveness day. Kapila Bobra is the President of Jain Center of Minnesota (JCM).

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVENTION 2001

JAINA RATNA AWARD



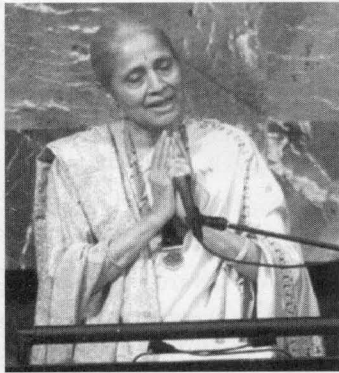
Dr. Manibhai Mehta, Cypress, CA

Dr. Manilal B. Mehta after completing M.B.B.S and M.S. moved to USA in 1968. He did his Urology in Philadelphia and moved to California in 1973.

Manibhai is one of the pioneers of Jain Center of S. California. He has served the Society in various capacities including as President from 1986-1989 during which time the present Jain Bhavan was built. Manibhai helped formation of JAINA. He has held different positions in JAINA including President during 1995-1997.

Besides JAINA Manibhai is involved in many other community activities. His pet project is Bidada Sarvodaya Trust in Kutch. He helps to raise funds, coordinates services of professionals, gets pharmaceutical and equipment companies to donate medicines and equipment for Bidada Hospital. Manibhai has a big heart and donates generously for various causes. In academics he received "Physician of the Year" award from Kaiser Permanente Medical Group in 1995.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD



Indu Jain is serenity personified. The housewife, who took over as the Chairperson of The Times of India Group, after the death of her husband Ashok Jain, could well be the a beacon of inspiration for women. The petite lady in white, reflecting a spiritual sanctity within, wants women and the world at large to realise that divinity is not manifest only in idols and in temples but also in oneself. Spiritual salvation is the path to success, whatever one's role in life.

Mrs Indu Jain once said that education should result in wisdom, which should ultimately lead to freedom and fulfilment. The Times Foundation has taken strides in furthering the cause of making education accessible.

Smt. Indu Jain at a UNO Millennium World Peace Summit

JAINA RECOGNITION AWARDS

Jyoti K. Doshi
Washington, DC



Dr. Sushil Jain
Washington, DC



Jagdish Sheth
Atlanta, GA



Madhu Sheth
Atlanta, GA



Niranjan Shah
Chicago, IL



CAMERA SHY

Prema Gandhi
Shirish Gandhi
Alpharatta, GA

Rashmi N. Shah
Palos Verdes, CA

Vasantben Shah
Irvine, CA

JAINA YOUTH AWARDS

Karishma Shah
Torrence, CA



Naishadh Shah
New Jersey, NY



Tanvi Vyas
Walnut, CA



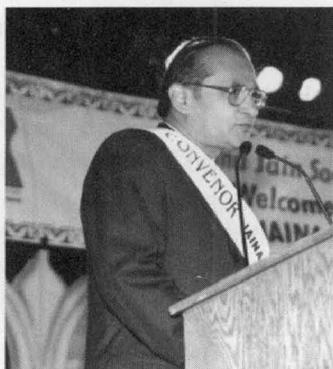
Rina Laxmi Shah
West Virginia



Biren Mehta
Huntington
Beach, CA

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVENTION 2001

Dilip V. Shah Philadelphia



11th Biennial JAINA Convention held during July 5-8 in Chicago at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center was a highly successful event. 6,000 attendees from all corners of North America gathered to celebrate their faith, renew friendships and make new friends. There were scores of invited monks, scholars and dignitaries who had come especially

from India for this convention. A very colorful souvenir was issued for the occasion and was included in the registration package along with books and CDs in a customized shoulder bag that people carried about all three days.

The icebreaker on the first evening on July 5 was supposed to be a low-key get-together but turned out to be a fabulous event beyond any one's imagination. Young adults dressed in their best and wearing widest smiles were all over. Dandia Raas program was a sight to behold. At mid night, they ran out of drinking water but the music and the dancing would not stop. Everyone was looking forward to meet again in the morning for the opening session.

A very colorful procession around the convention hall on early morning of July 6 with tall flags and JAINA banners proceeded the opening session. The crowd very well received a ten-minute video presentation on large video screens about JAINA and all the past conventions. Since Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanu could not attend due to ill health, his prerecorded keynote speech was presented to the fully packed convention hall. He made an impassionate speech on the need for the Jains of the North America to stay united. Other scholars and monks throughout the convention echoed his message.

The most colorful event followed the opening session in the adjoining hall was opening of the replica of Pawapuri Mandir specially built for this convention. This opening was also the JAINA's launching of the yearlong celebration of Lord Mahavir's 2600th birth anniversary. 26 families lighted a lamp to mark the 2600th Anniversary. The opening ceremony also served as a major fund raiser for the convention. The temple was another master piece

creation of Dr. Nipul Shah of San Diego, CA and his team of 35 volunteers. The temple surrounded with a lake and fountains was an emotional nourishment for all the attendees. Many attendees visited the temple 2 or 3 times a day.

All throughout the convention, there were so many things happening simultaneously at different locations that for the people attending the convention. It was like being a kid in the candy store. Every one was walking around with updated "Schedule of events" and pondering where to go next. There were yoga demonstrations, meditations, Bhakti geets and Pratikamans in the mornings and scores of seminars all day into late nights. There were separate youth programs, programs for women, gatherings of affiliated organizations or interest groups like the alumni of Mahavir Jain Vidyalaya, KOJAIN, Pathshala teachers etc.

Dr. Manibhai Mehta, Past President of JAINA was awarded JAINA RATNA award and the Presidential Award was given to Induben Jain of the Times of India group of companies. JAINA Recognition awards and Youth awards were also given to 14 individuals. Bipin Parikh was elected as the President for the next two

years. The other members of his executive committee who were elected to serve with him were: Anop Vora (Rochestern NY) the first Vice President, Kirit Daftary (Waco, TX) as the Secretary, Girish Shah of Campbell, CA as the Treasurer, and Sushil Jain, Lata Champsee, Ila Mehta, Mahendra Mehta, Uday Jain and Hasendra Shah as regional Vice Presidents.

The seminars and panel discussions headed by the scholars throughout the convention were the crown jewels of the four-day



HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVENTION 2001



gathering. Mr. Girish Shah of California ran two sessions on Jain Society interactions for the officers and volunteers of all the Jain centers to learn from each other about running pathshalas, fund raising, publishing of newsletters etc. The spirit of growing by sharing and learning was so evident that this new feature will be the permanent feature of the future conventions. Dr. Mahendra Mehta of Canada held a panel discussion on "Are we (Jains) going on the right Path? Another panel discussion headed by Pravin Shah of North Carolina on Jain Unity with many important speakers like Dr. N. P. Jain, Sadhvi Shilapiji, Deepchand Gardi, Dr. Mahendra Pandya, Dr. Dhiraj Shah illustrated very vividly why we were all here. He issued a call for one single agenda – a plan of action- behind which Jains around the world can unite and result in the unity everyone is looking for. Unity was the theme that ran throughout the convention.

Friday night was the musical evening. Bhanu Vora and Trupti Chhaya group provided a relaxing mix of devotional and folk songs. Saturday night was for cultural programs by various Jain Societies. This is one chance for our young ones to present themselves to the national audience and it was a fun filled evening.

Plenty of programs were planned for the Youth. As if this convention was a carefully planned mixture of two conventions one for the adults and one for the youth. There was a cruise the most popular event with young adults. Jain Network Forum (formerly known as Marriage Information Service) was organized very well by Vijay Mehta. The other attractions for the youth were : The Jain Academic Bowl, and of course dancing.

Young Jain Professionals organized several well-attended sessions. Twilight Zone pondered philosophical questions in the realm of the unknown. Jain Ethics and Social Activism raised the issue of applying Jain teachings by helping create a better world for everyone. Jain CEO's – The Secret of their Success - discussed the professional, ethical, and social struggles encountered by a panel

of CEO's. Evolving Role of Jain Men and Women created a dialogue about the changing of women's roles to personal and financial independence in addition to the traditional role of wife, mother, and homemaker, the impact this change has on women, and the subsequent impact this has on men. Finally, the YJP Leadership Session gave an overview of YJP's activities from its inception and highlighted executive board positions available.

Anop Vora of Rochester gave a slide presentation on the meaning of the Samvatsari Pratikaman that was very well received. JAINA Education Committee organized a pathshala teachers' meeting. About 60 to 70 teachers and coordinators attended the meeting arranged by Pravin Shah, Sailesh Jain, Pradip Shah and Darshna Shah. They discussed making educational materials available to pathshalas. 20 volunteers agreed to review and edit the existing material. Dr. Manibhai Mehta assured that the funding would be available for this project. All the events ran smoothly and no problems were reported.

There were many meetings for helping the earthquake relief operations in Kutch. Ramesh Shah of Cleveland introduced "Wheels of Hope" program wherein working with American Red Cross he obtains hundreds of wheel chairs, fixes them and sends them to India for the earthquake victims.

The International Alumni Association of Shri Mahavir Jain Vidyalay (IAAMJV) held its Biennial General Body meeting on the 8th at the convention. They elected the new executive committee for two year term with Rajnikant T. Shah of Warrenville, IL as new President.

The crowds gathered around many exhibit booths between the lectures. There were many booths offering religious books, tapes, CDs. There were many kinds of booths- informational, charitable causes and commercial ventures.

The Jivdaya booth offered a unique mix of information. Vegetarian Resource Group's dedicated volunteers displayed their popular guides to ingredients and vegetarian food available in fast food restaurants. The booth also highlighted the work of the Jivdaya Committee, headed by Rati and Bonny Shah of Texas, with pictures and handouts depicting their work with animals and people

affected by the earthquake in Kutch, India, as well as their efforts to spay animals in the US to prevent animal overpopulation and the suffering that follows. Sangeeta Kumar, a young activist who



HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVENTION 2001

spoke at a session on Compassionate Living, was also present as a resource person at the booth. Elsewhere in the exhibit hall, Jains were able to sample soap that did not contain animal fat. They could also view pictures of a panjra-pol called Girivihar near Palitana, and get more information on supporting those efforts. Thus even within the small area of the exhibit hall, North American Jains were offered a variety of ways to apply non-violence to their lives.

The Young Jains of America, Young Jain Professionals, and Jain Spirit booths highlighted the innovative resources and activities developed and supported by the young Jains of the 21st century. Many people stopped by the Young Jains of America and Young Jain Professionals booths to become a part of these dynamic organizations. The Jain Center of Connecticut offered a unique transcription of Jain songs into Western musical notation. Booth that drew the most attention was from "WORLD JAIN CONFEDERATION" a newly launched organization in India whose charter was inaugurated in April at the 2600th anniversary of Lord Mahavir by the Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee. Hundreds of attendees signed up to support their goal of Jain unity.



Father Valles delivered the keynote speech on Saturday. His 90 minute speech was tour de force and was listened to by the hushed crowd that was interrupted by numerous bursts of laughter as he described the unique and most important Jain concept "14 Gunsthanaks" – fourteen steps to attain higher state of being. He also spoke separately to the youth and he is undoubtedly becoming the most eagerly awaited speaker by both the young and the adults at the JAINA Conventions.

Breakout sessions organized for the scholars were a big hit! Most of the sessions were jam packed. Many attendees had to sit on the floor or stand along the walls. JAINA intends to keep this growing community need, this hunger for the knowledge in mind while organizing the next convention. Scholars like Jin Chandraj, Shekhar Chand Jain, Manek Muni, Amrendra Muni, Babubhai Kadiwala, Dr. Bharil, Dr. Sneh Rani Jain, Prakash Jain, Prof. Yashvant Malyia, Herrman Kuhn, Bob Arnet, Kiranbhai Parekh, Chandrakant Mehta, Rajni Shah, Dulichand Jain, . John Robbins, Dr. Neal Barnard, and Satish Kumar, Dr. Kokila Doshi gave speeches and interacted with the audience in a manner that made the convention what it is supposed to be, a joyous, learning and

growing event for the Jains in this adopted land to come together, celebrate their faith and pass on their beliefs and cultural heritage to the next generation.

The seasoned team of volunteers from Chicago did an excellent job of putting the convention together; running the entire operation smoothly, every last detail was carefully looked after. Online

registration was very successful and we will see more of that in the future. The team of Convention Convener Dr. Bipin Parikh and Co-conveners Kishore Shah and Prabodh Vaidya all of Chicago Jain Sangh orchestrated flawless and they deserve countless kudos. The convention center was an excellent choice of venue because it was large enough facility but everything was so close by - no long walks and no

rushed participants. Also Hyatt Hotel where most of the out of town guests stayed was within 5 minutes of walking distance. The food – arrangements could not be better. Serving three meals a day for 6,000 without any complications. There were no long lines, special food for children and some for vegans- were available. Scholars were served separately. And food was delicious!

After 20 years of existence, this was the first convention that was actually developed and managed by JAINA. The timing of this convention, very auspicious days as it turned out, conflicted with many weddings in our community resulting in shortfall of attendance. The economic conditions, depressed stock market, Gujarat earthquake fund raisings effected donations to the convention. In spite of all this, JAINA will have no financial liability resulting from Convention. The new format of organizing JAINA convention wherein the sitting Vice President is the convener of the convention, the convention Board is made-up of equal number of members from the host Sangh and seasoned JAINA volunteers named by JAINA Executive Committee. JAINA is on the path of making the conventions self-sufficient and a day may come when professionals in a vacation city may organize the future conventions with guidelines from JAINA .

11th Biennial JAINA convention photo album \$25 for 20 pictures. and \$20 for edited 30-35 minute Video. It contains opening presentation video and edited cultural program. Send you cheque to JAINA HQ, PO Box 700, Getzville, NY 14068-0700 or at jainahq@aol.com

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVENTION 2001

OPEN BOOK EXAM

The JAINA Education Committee organized the 1st Open Book Exam based on Jain texts. The goal was to increase awareness of Jain philosophy and practice.

The Gujarati exam was based on *Jain Tattva Prakash* by Pr. Dhirajlal Mehta, and the English exam was based on *Essence of Jainism* and *Spiritual Codes And Restraints* by Manubhai Doshi. There were a total of 103 participants in the Gujarati exam, and 50 in the English exam, including 15 youth in the English exam. The winners are:

GUJARATI EXAM

<u>1st Place:</u>	Neha Jain	Columbus Ohio
<u>2nd Place:</u>	Kusum Mehta	Boston, MA
	Manhar Parekh	Atlanta, GA
<u>3rd Place:</u>	Pallavi Mehta	Houston, TX
<u>Hon. Mention:</u>	Manorama Shah	Boston, MA
	Dipen Shah	Pittsburgh, PA
	Minaben Shah	Chicago, IL
	Yashomati Shah	Chicago, IL
	Hemlata Shah	New Jersey
	Vijay Doshi	Charlotte, NC

ENGLISH ADULT GROUP

<u>1st Place:</u>	Susheela Singavi	Chicago, IL
<u>2nd Place:</u>	Shantilal Mohnot	Pittsburgh, PA
	Rashmi Vora	Chicago, IL
<u>3rd Place:</u>	Nirmala Shah	Chicago, IL
	Hemlata Shah	New Jersey
	Rakesh Jain	Coloumbus Ohio
<u>Hon. Mention</u>	Gita Shah	Chicago, IL
	Mamta Doshi	Chicago, IL

ENGLISH YOUTH GROUP

<u>1st Place:</u>	Shibani Shah	Chicago, IL
<u>2nd Place:</u>	Kunal Rambhia	Pittsburgh, PA
<u>3rd Place:</u>	Shital Shah	Chicago, IL
	Parinda Shah	Chicago, IL
	Ravi Mehta	Pittsburgh, PA
<u>Hon. Mention</u>	Shardule Shah	Boston, MA

The youngest participants included Rishi Mohnot and Hemali Shah, both 11 years old, and the oldest one was 75 years old. Congratulations to all winners and participants.

The judges were Dr. Chandrakant Shah, Dr. Pravin Shah, Manubhai Doshi, Dr. Pradip Shah, and Darshana Shah. The total amount of the prizes came to \$ 930/-, which was donated by Indira Mansukhlal Doshi Memorial Trust.

5TH JAINA ACADEMIC BOWL

The 5th Jaina Academic Bowl (JAB) was held at the Eleventh Biennial Convention of JAINA in Chicago, IL. This year's tournament was as exciting as ever, combining competitiveness, knowledge and friendly interaction from a number of young Jains. Six excellent teams participated; they represented Jain centers from Boston, Chicago A, Chicago B, Houston, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh.

The final match featured the Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago A and the Jain Society of Pittsburgh

And the winner was...the Jain Society of Chicago A.

The Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago, coached by Mr. Pramod Shah (team members: Sameer Shah – Captain, Shibani Shah, Parinda Shah, Sheetal Shah, Neil Mashruwala, received a large “1st Place” team trophy for their Jain Center and individual 1st place trophy.

Team members of the Jain Society of Pittsburgh; coached by Mr. Shantilal Mohnot (team members; Kunal Rambhia, Girish Jain, Ravi Mehta, Ravi R Mehta, Rishi Mohnot and Neha Mehta,) also received individual 2nd place trophies and team trophy to be placed at their Jain Center. Shree Manubhai Doshi conferred the trophies at the Awards Ceremony after final JAB game. The Indira Memorial Trust sponsored the trophies and prizes.

The JAB is an academic competition, modeled after the high school “It’s Academic” and college-level “College Bowl” activities of today’s educational institutions. It is based on an appreciation of knowledge of Jainism, the ability for quick response, and a friendly yet competitive spirit. The overall hope is to encourage an even greater interest in the study of Jainism.

This year, the JAB was jointly sponsored JAINA Youth Committee and Indira Memorial Trust. Many thanks to the numerous people who assisted in planning and execution of the JAB. The principal organizers were Darshana Shah, Pradip Shah and Alap Shah. Special thanks to Shailee Mashruwala and Alap Shah for conducting and moderating all JAB games.

Spread the word so we can see bigger and better “JABs” at future conventions!

The other team members and coaches were:

- 1 Boston:** Coach, Shardule Shah members: Pankaj Shah, Niyati Mehta, Amisha Singhvi, Neepa Vagadia, Tanmay Gosalia
- 2. Milwaukee:** Coach, Chintan Shah members: Hemant Jain, Chirag Shah, Roshni Jain, Dipali Jain, Sonia Jain, Sanjay Jain
- 3 Houston:** Coach: Aditi Sheth Members: Jitu Shah, Arpan Shah, Amit Shah, Payal Kapadia, Shilpi Desai
- 4. Chicago B:** Coach: Rushi Parikh Members: Pravin Shah, Hetal Shah, Palak Shah, Rushabh Shah

Daslakshan Parva (Festival of the Ten Virtues) is the Paryushan festival as celebrated by the Digambar Jains. The full title is *Paryushan Parvathiraj*, the 'king of festivals' because 'Parva' means festival of auspicious time and 'thiraj' means 'the king of'.

During *Paryushan* Jains practice penances, vows, fast and study. If not fasting, they refrain from eating green vegetables. *Paryushan* is the time to celebrate the natural qualities of the soul. Just as the soul does not have a beginning or an end, *Paryushan* does not have a beginning or an end.

Before we discuss the ten *Dharmas*, it is important to understand two common viewpoints found in our scriptures. *Vyavahar view*, in crude terms, helps you to live more easily and peacefully with the outside world. It also builds up your reserve of good deeds (*punya karmas*). The *Nischay view* helps to enhance and blossom the soul's natural qualities. In Jainism the *Vyavahar view* is always considered to be 'by the by'. The *Nischay view* is considered to be the most important as it leads to contemplation and understanding of the true nature of the soul with the aim of its purification, the ultimate goal of practising *Paryushan*. Merely practising the *Vyavahar dharmas* may bind *punya karmas*, leading to material gain in this life and the next; but this will not help bring an end to the cycle of the births, lives and deaths.

The *Dharmas* are all prefixed by the word 'Uttam' (Supreme) to signify that they are practised at the highest level by the Jain monks. The householder practises them to a lesser extent. It lasts over a period of 10 days, each day being dedicated to one of the ten *Dharmas*.

1) Uttam Kshama or Supreme Forgiveness:

a) *Vyavahar Kshama Dharma*: We forgive those who have wronged us and seek forgiveness from those we have wronged. Forgiveness is sought not just from human colleagues, but from all living beings ranging from one sensed to five sensed. If we do not forgive or seek forgiveness, and instead harbour resentment, we bring misery and unhappiness on ourselves and in the process shatter our peace of mind and make enemies. Forgiving and seeking forgiveness oils the wheel of life allowing us to live in harmony with our fellow beings. It also attracts *punya karma*.

b) *Nischay Kshama Dharma*: Forgiveness here is directed to oneself. The soul, in a state of mistaken identity or false belief, assumes that it consists of the body, the karmas and the emotions e.g. like, dislike, anger, pride etc. As a result of this incorrect belief it inflicts pain upon itself and is thus the cause of its own misery. *Nischay Kshama Dharma* teaches the soul to correctly identify itself by encouraging the soul to contemplate in its true nature and hence achieve the state of correct belief or '*Samyak Dharshan*'. It

is only by achieving *Samyak Dharshan* that the soul ceases to inflict pain on itself and attains supreme happiness.

2) Uttam Mardav or Supreme Modesty/ Humility:

a) *Vyavahar Uttam Mardav*: Wealth, good looks, reputable family or intelligence often leads to pride. Pride means to believe one to be superior to others and to look down on others. By being proud you are measuring your worth by temporary material objects. These objects will either leave you or you will be forced to leave them (when you die). These eventualities will cause you unhappiness as a result of the 'dent' caused to your self-worth. Being humble will prevent this. Pride also leads to the influx of the bad deed or *paap karmas*.

b) *Nischay Uttam Mardav*: All souls are equal, none being superior or inferior to another. In the words of Srimad Rajchandra: '*Sarva Jeev Che Sidh Sum, Je Samje Te Thai* - All souls are akin to the *Sidh*; those who understand this principle will achieve that state'. The *Nischay view* encourages you to understand your true nature. All souls have the potential to be *Sidh Bhagvan* (liberated soul). The only difference between the liberated souls and those in bondage is that the former have attained liberation as a result of their 'effort'. With effort, even the later can achieve liberation.

3) Uttam Arjav or Supreme Straight Forwardness :

a) *Vyavahar Uttam Arjav*: The action of a deceitful person is to think one thing, speak something else and do something entirely different. There is no harmony in his thought, speech and actions. Such a person loses credibility very quickly and lives in constant anxiety and fear of his deception being exposed. Being straightforward or honest oils the wheel of life. You will be seen to be reliable and trustworthy. Deceitful actions lead to the influx of *paap karmas*.

b) *Nischay Uttam Arjav* : Delusion about one's identity is the root cause of unhappiness. Be straightforward to yourself and recognise your true nature. The soul is made up of countless qualities like knowledge, happiness, effort, faith, and conduct. It has the potential to achieve '*Keval Gnan*' (omniscience) and reach a state of supreme bliss. Again, the body, karmas, thoughts, and all the emotions are separate from the true nature of the soul. Only by practising *Nischay Arjav Dharma* will one taste the true happiness that comes from within.

4) Uttam Sauch or Supreme Contentment:

a) *Vyavahar Uttam Sauch* : Be content with the material gains that you have accomplished thus far – striving for greater material wealth and pleasure will not, contrary to popular belief, lead to happiness. Desire for more is a sign that we do not have all that we want. Reducing this desire and being content with what you have leads to satisfaction. Accumulating material objects merely fuels the fire of desire.

Daslakshana Parva (cont..)

b) *Nischay Uttam Sauch* : Contentment or happiness, derived from material objects, is only perceived to be so by a soul in a state of false belief. The fact is that material objects do not have a quality of happiness and therefore happiness cannot be obtained from them! The perception of 'enjoying' material objects is indeed only that – a perception! This perception rewards the soul with only misery and nothing else. Real happiness comes from within, as it is the soul that possesses the quality of happiness.

5) Uttam Satya Dharma or Supreme Truth:

a) *Vyavahar Satya Dharma* : If talking is not required, then do not talk. If it is required then only use the minimum of words, which must all be absolutely true. Talking disturbs the stillness of the mind. Lying leads to an influx of *paap karma*.

b) *Nischay Satya Dharma* : 'Satya' comes from the word 'Sat', which means existence. Existence is a quality of the soul. Recognising the soul's true nature as it really exists and taking shelter in the soul is practising *Nischay Satya Dharma*.

6) Uttam Sayam or Supreme Self-Restraint :

a) *Vyavahar Uttam Sayam*: Subdivided into 2:

i) *Restraining from injury to life* - Jains go to the great lengths to protect life. This encompasses all living beings, from one-sensed onwards. The purpose of not eating root vegetables is that they contain countless one-sensed beings termed 'nigod'. During Paryushan the Jains also do not eat green vegetables to reduce harm to the lower sensed beings.

ii) *Self-restraint from desires or passions* - These lead to pain and are therefore to be avoided.

b) *Nischay Uttam Sayam* - Subdivided into 2:

i) *Restraining injury to the self* - This has been elaborated upon in *Nischay Kshma Dharma*.

ii) *Self restraint from desires or passions* – Emotions, e.g. likes, dislikes, anger etc. lead to misery and need to be eradicated. They are not part of the true nature of the soul and only arise when the soul is in a state of false belief. The only method to free oneself from these is to contemplate on the true nature of the soul and in the process commence the journey to *Moksha* or liberation.

7) Uttam Tap or Supreme Penance

a) *Vyavahar Uttam Tap*: This does not only mean fasting but also includes a reduced diet, restriction of certain types of foods, avoiding tasty foods etc. The purpose of penance is to keep desires and passions in control. Penance leads to an influx of *punya karmas*.

b) *Nischay Uttam Tap*: Meditation prevents the rise of desires and passions in the soul. In a deep state of meditation the desire to intake food does not arise.

8) Uttam Tyag or Supreme Renunciation

a) *Vyavahar Uttam Tyag*: Contrary to popular belief, renouncing worldly possessions leads to a life of contentment and assists in keeping desires in check. Controlling desires lead to an influx of *punya karma*. Renunciation is done at the highest level by our monks who renounce not only the household but also their clothes. A person's strength is measured not by the amount of wealth he accumulates but by the amount of wealth he renounces and by this measure our monks are the richest.

b) *Nischay Uttam Tyag*: Renouncing the emotions, root cause of misery, is *Nischay Uttam Tyag*, which is only possible by contemplating on the true nature of the soul.

9) Uttam Akinchan or Supreme Non Attachment

a) *Vyavahar Uttam Akinchan*: This assists us in detaching from external possessions. Historically ten possessions listed in our scriptures, 'land, house, silver, gold, wealth, grain, female servants, male servants, garments and utensils'. Remaining unattached from these helps control our desires and leads to an influx of *punya karmas*.

b) *Nischay Uttam Akinchan*: This assists us in being unattached from our internal attachments, of which fourteen listed in our scriptures are, 'false belief, anger, pride, deceit, greed, laughter, liking, disliking, lamentation, fear, disgust, male sexual desire, female sexual desire and hybrid sexual desire'. Ridding the soul of these leads to the soul's purification.

10) Uttam Brahmacharya or Supreme Celibacy

a) *Vyavahar Uttam Brahmacharya*: This means not only refraining from sexual intercourse but also includes all pleasures associated with the sense of touch e.g. a cool breeze on a hot summers day or using a cushion for a hard surface. Again this *dharma* is practised to keep our desires in check. The monks practise this to the highest degree with all their body, speech and mine. The householder refrains from sexual intercourse with anyone except his or her spouse.

b) *Nischay Uttam Bramcharya*: *Brahmacharya* is derived from the work 'Brama' – Soul and 'charya' - to dwell. *Nischay Brahmacharya* means to dwell in your soul. Only by residing in the soul are you the master of the Universe. Residing outside your soul makes you a slave to desires.

Kshma Vani Parva: This is celebrated on the day following the *Das Lakshan Parva* and is also celebrated three times a year. With proper practice of the *Das Lakshan Parva* our hearts should be overflowing with forgiveness and hence the celebration of this festival on the following day.

Kshampanab

It is only as a result of the preachings of his Holiness Kanjisiwami that we have come to understand the real meaning and purpose of celebrating *Daslakshan Paryushan Parva*. If I have misinterpreted this great festival in any way then I crave for his forgiveness.

When I was a child, I often heard Jainism proudly referred to as a uniquely scientific religion, different from all other faith-driven and prophet-led religions. Jainism was portrayed to some extent as transcending mere religion into something superior. I imagined Jainism to be some precise science, like physics, but only more complex, and that all of the tenets of Jainism would be proven true someday by scientists. I predicted that science would discover karma particles and souls, find irrefutable evidence of reincarnation and archaeological evidence of arohs and avrohs.

When I reflect on this today, I find that Science never validated Jainism to the degree I needed to convince myself. Maybe it will someday, and maybe not. At this point in my life though, I'm not interested in validating Jainism scientifically. It is immensely appealing regardless.

Instead, I see the role that Faith (Shraddha) and Bhakti have played is far more powerful a force than any science has ever been in my life. I regret now that my value system had shunned the role of Faith and Bhakti in practicing Jainism, and instead tried to substitute them with facts and logic. I used to look down on Faith as necessarily being blind, confusing it with superstition, and holding Faith responsible for all the things that elders did that I didn't

understand or approve of. I understood Bhakti to be vaguely associated with singing Stavans and Bhajans, something I didn't understand or enjoy much. I never really understood the power of Bhakti as a life-giving force.

My understanding of Jainism is different today. Understanding more of the history of mankind, of wars and great achievements, and nature, has convinced me that there is a soul, a spirit inside. I have felt that there is a force that makes life distinctly higher than the mere series of biochemical reactions that sustains our bodies. It is a worthwhile and stirring moment when we first "feel" such a connection with God and spirit. What Bhakti I could not find in singing Bhajans, I found in devotion to mathematics, in music, and sometimes in meditation on words, all serving as means of identifying with God. It is difficult to explain well.

The point is that many others find their own way, that it took me years to find one way, and it may take many more years to go deeper. But, where I found faith, others may not, and how I practice Bhakti, others may find in their own way. Be optimistic that we will discover more to life tomorrow than we have to date, if we are open to God.

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&

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Please send your \$101.00 Jain Digest life membership dues to
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 630-837-8716.

JAINA CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT**JAINA FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF 01/07/01**

JAINA General Fund	\$3,855.53
After accts payable of \$ 7,457.77)	
Various sub-committee balances:	
Education Committee	\$9,528.92
Jiv Daya Committee	426.16
World Community Service	5,163.20
Temple Guideline	1,401.00
YJA	32,295.11
Virchand R. Gandhi Fund	9,308.00
Mahavir Memorial Committee	1,573.41
N. American Jain Family Assistance Program	5,484.00
Tirthoddhar Committee	53,485.55
Pilgrimage Committee	1,020.40
JAINA Book Source Committee	15,909.59

COMMITTEES TOTAL \$135,568.34

Money Market fund for JD Endowment	\$18,400.91
CD for JAIN Digest Endowment Fund	\$58,869.60
JAINA Charitable Trust as of 3/13/00 <i>as per information supplied by Jagat Jain</i>	\$176,785.23
WCS Gujarat Earthquake Fund as of 7/1/01	\$331,713.83

GRAND TOTAL \$725,193.44

submitted by
Anop R. Vora, Treasurer

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- ☐ I want to be a Life Member of JAIN DIGEST and will donate \$101
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Please make checks payable to JAINA. Your donation is tax-deductible. Please advise if you wish to remain anonymous. 950 Jain families have already done so, would you not do so? If not for you, do it for your children and grandchildren.

RATIONAL EXUBERANCE

- The Key to the Center of the Universe
- KARMA – The Mechanism
- A two-book set on Tattvarthasutra

by Herman Kuhn, Crosswind publishing Nevada

Jains of all traditions agree on one thing – Tattvarthasutra is the essence of Jainism. There are many scholarly works (Pandit Sukhlaji's being most known) describing it but easy reading it is not. Herman Kuhn, a German scholar, co-founder and president of the Jain Association of Germany for many years and invited speaker at the JAINA Convention has made a valiant effort to simplify this highly complex text and brings the central message of Tattvarthasutra to the western world in plain English commensurate with our worldly experiences.

The first book – “Key to the center of the Universe” presents the Tattvarthasutra as a blueprint of how to access deeper functions of our consciousness. The original Sanskrit text is faithfully reproduced Sutra by Sutra and many complex Jain terminologies have been given insightful English translation (for example, he refers to *jiva* as consciousness and *naya* as partial sight). The second part of the book describes 14 *Gunasthanas*. He terms them as “application” of the sutras in daily life. Kuhn compares ascendance from fourth *Gunasthana* to Fifth *Gunasthana* to recognizing the need to undertake daily jogging and actually doing it. This analogy is carried further by comparing the benefits of a few weeks of regular jogging to the conscious channeling of our action towards ultimate freedom. The stunningly detailed diagram showing all 14 stages of development is very interesting as it answers many of our questions visually. Near the very end, he has coined a phrase “Five freedoms” for *Panch Mahavrats*. His interpretation differs significantly from traditional meaning of “vows”. He challenges the notion that adoption of 5 vows automatically lands you to the fifth *Gunasthana*. Give him credit that as he presents his arguments, he presents both the traditional view and his own interpretation. He also challenges many western ideas. It is clear

that he prefers Jain answers to many imponderables. One only has to hear him recite the Navkar Mantra to realize his deep belief in all that he is presenting.

The second book- “KARMA – The Mechanism” is his interpretation of chapters 6 through 10 of the Tattvarthasutra. Here Herman Kuhn dissects all western understanding of KARMA and logically steers the readers to a Jain point of view. He tells over and over again that there is nothing mysterious about Karma. For each sutra he devotes about two pages as he explains how we attract karmic matters to our consciousness, how our consciousness and karmic matter interact with each other, why karmic matters attach (*bandha*) and how to dissolve our Karma. He repeats his essay on 14 *Gunasthanas* here and why he has chosen to do that is not clear to me. At the end of the book is a “To Do” list and a checklist that will help reader progress on the path of self-realization.

It is Herman Kuhn's exuberance in presenting his central theme – that Tattvarth is the key to uncovering the hidden knowledge we are all endowed with, which makes reading his works a sheer joy. The two-book set is a great introduction to the ancient text for the novice and full of new insight for someone who has vague notions of Jainism. Scholars of Jainism may debate usefulness of western interpretations of our sacred text but any student of Jainism should not overlook Herman Kuhn's work. From this German Scholar who has developed series of advanced management courses based on Jain knowledge for European companies and has made his life mission to spread message of Jainism this practicable translation of Acharya Umaswami's work is a Gift to the western world.

The two-book set is available through JAINA BOOK STORE for \$30.00 (Postage included)

SAMANS SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF ABROAD

In celebration of the 26th centennial anniversary of the birth of Lord Mahavir, Saman Niyojak Shrutpragyaji and Shitpragyaji, disciples of Anuvrat Anushashta Acharyashri Mahapragya, are touring Malaysia and United States. The main focus of their tour is to give lectures about Mahavira's teachings, Mahavira's practice of meditation, nonviolence, non-possession, and Anekant, to inspire people to read Mahavira's literature, and to arrange workshops on Preksha meditation at various universities and Jain Centers. The Samans arrived in Malaysia on April 5, 2001. After participating in the Mahavir Jyanti program, they left for a four-month tour of eleven states including California, Arizona, and Kentucky. The Samans also gave lectures at the Western Kentucky University, University of Arizona, University of Minnesota and Marshall University. During their tour the Samans taught Jains, Indians, and Americans about Anuvrat, Preksha meditation, the science of living and Jain philosophy. They celebrated the anniversary of the birth of his holiness Acharya Mahapragya at Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Samans will travel back to India via Malaysia in September 2001.

JAINA BOOK STORE:

Bhaktamara Stotra Is A Magic To Miracle (Illustrated Small Book Plus VCD & CD) - Price US\$20.00

Salutations to Lord Adinath broke the chains of iron of Mantungsuri and Bhaktamara was composed. The chain of iron will also remove fetters of Sanskaras, Egoism, Egotism, and Karma. Spiritual practice requires to feel its efficacy. Guidelines for worshippers is presented to help spiritual practitioners by Acharya Rajyashsuriji Maharaj in the Bhaktamar Darshan Granth. Bhaktamara Stotra illustrated is available in three languages, Gujarati, Hindi and English. For the benefit of all those who want to have a look at Audio-Visual, we are giving VCD and CD-Rom as compliment to the privileged purchasers.

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MIS REGISTRATION FORM - PAGE 1

Send this completed form, a check in the amount of \$25 and a recent, full-length photograph of yourself with your name printed on the back to:

**Hasmukh M. Shah, 8721 Scrimshaw Drive,
New Port Richey, FL 34653-6623 Phone: 727/376-7989
hasmukh33@yahoo.com**

Name (please print): _____

LAST

FIRST

MIDDLE

Address: _____

STREET

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Are you a vegetarian? YES NO Do you smoke? YES NO Do you drink? YES NO

Have you been married before? YES NO

If yes, indicate the name of your divorced spouse. _____

Your visa status in the USA/Canada? _____ When did you enter the USA/Canada? _____ MONTH/YEAR

What languages do you speak? _____ What is your religion? _____

What languages do you read? _____

What languages do you write? _____

Education: _____

DEGREE YEAR RECEIVED MAJOR NAME OF UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

Work experience: _____

COMPANY'S NAME POSITION DURATION

Father's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Brother(s) and/or Sister(s) _____

NAME(S) AGE(S) EDUCATION OCCUPATION

Do you have other relatives living in the North America? _____

NAME RELATIONSHIP OCCUPATION ADDRESS

Other relevant information (use additional paper if necessary): _____

Candidate's signature: _____ Date: _____

Important Considerations:

It is important to remember that the MIS is a non-for-profit, voluntary community service. The MIS and JAINA assume no responsibility or liability for the accuracy or authenticity of the information furnished in the ads or any consequences resulting thereof. The entire responsibility rests with the candidates themselves. All information furnished to the MIS is confidential. Only those who are sincerely interested in looking for a Jain life partner should send a Registration Form. While matching, photographs will not be passed on to the candidates by the MIS. Parents/guardians should communicate with the candidate before placing ad and assist them in making a final decision.

1. Two references who are members of the Jain Community or other Indian organizations.

A. Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Member of: _____

ORGANIZATION'S NAME

B. Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Member of: _____

ORGANIZATION'S NAME

2. Indicate your personal preference of these criteria for the match.

Age: Between the ages of _____ and _____ or open.

Height: Between the height of _____ and _____ or open.

Weight: Between the weight of _____ and _____ or open.

Education: ☐ Bachelor ☐ Masters Degree ☐ Other

Major: _____

Vegetarian: YES NO Work experience: YES NO

Residence: (state) _____

Visa Status: _____

Length of time in North America: _____ years.

Language. English: YES NO

Other (specify): _____

Congratulations!

Female: 122, Male: 111 (Married / Engaged)

JAINA would like to congratulate all couples who have come together with the help of the services of the MIS. JAINA wishes to thank them for their generous donation. More and more Jains around the world are not only appreciating this much needed service, but are also taking advantage of it. Simultaneously, the flow of ads in JAIN DIGEST is gradually increasing.

Guideline to all perspective participants

Be positive, constructive, creative and friendly! No match is going to be "perfect." Complement and support each other practicing respect, sharing, acquire knowledge and maintaining your uniqueness while keeping an open mind. These are the qualities that make for human perfection.

Our world is shrinking and we are a global village and life is not always easy. However, we can carry our philosophy and our value system that is very worth while, with us. Accept the challenge and make your choice be a worth while one.

Placing an Ad and Registration with MIS

Anyone wishing to place an ad and register with the MIS must follow these instructions care-fully:

1. Fill out the attached Registration Form Page 1 and Page 2. The registrant must fill out this form. *Do not leave anything blank.*
2. Mail the the completed form + a check in the amount of \$25 payable to Hasmukh M. Shah. Leave the Memo or For column blank.
3. a recent, full-length photo of yourself with your name printed on the back.
4. Upon receipt of this information the MIS will draft an ad for you and it will appear in the JAIN DIGEST—but only once. Remember, JAIN DIGEST is a quarterly publication.

Placing an Ad Only

If you do not wish to register with the MIS and wish to draft an ad yourself, you may do so in 30 words or less. Remember that the MIS reserve the right to edit all such ads. Follow step 2 above, but submit your own ad with phone number instead of a completed form and photo. **Full Name, Address, Phone number of the candidate must be furnished with the ads for MIS records, without which MIS will not be able to process the ad for publication.**

Responding to an Ad (only if contact info isn't available).

If the phone number or address is not given in the ad, then you must contact the candidate through MIS. Follow these step-by-step instructions. Place your bio-data and a recent photograph of yourself in a sealed, stamped envelope with your return address in the upper left-hand corner and the MIS ad reference number in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope. Leave space on the envelope for an address. Place this envelope in another envelope with your return address in the upper left-hand corner and mail it to Hasmukh M. Shah. Upon receipt of these responses the MIS will place the ad holders address on the inner envelope and mail it. Remember, MIS is not responsible for responses that do not conform to these instructions.

Please notify the MIS

Please notify the MIS when an engagement or marriage has been announced. This helps us to know if this community service is working to help maintain our traditions. Please note that if a successful alliance has taken place, both parties will agree to donate what ever amount they wish to JAINA to help defray the cost of publication.

MATRIMONIALS - MALE

M345: Proposals invited for handsome, brilliant, successful, dynamic, well settled, vegetarian Gujarati boy, born Nov 71, 5'8", 140 lb, BS, studied computer science, very well positioned, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 301/431-2525. Email: NKM7@hotmail.com

M450: Physician, MD (emergency medicine), handsome, vegetarian, athletic, US born son, Oct 73, 6'3", 175 lb. Jain parents invite proposals from good natured, educated, vegetarian girls. Mail biodata / photo to: Dr. R. Kothari, 8551 Holmes Rd., #73, Kansas City, MO 64131.

M657: Correspondence invited for handsome, smart, intelligent, vegetarian, Gujarati boy, born Oct 69, 5'11", BS (comp science: from UNY), well established self employed as IT software consultant, from cultured, educated, Gujarati girls. Call: 732/821-2055. Email: vshah@infolinkusa.com

M776: Alliance invited for handsome, brilliant, highly successful, vegetarian, US citizen son, born Jan 73, 5'7", 155 lb, MBA / MIS, BS Eng., well positioned in a reputed co., from cultured, educated, vegetarian girls. Call: 732/549-8684.

M864: Gujarati parents invite responses for very handsome, fair, brilliant, vegetarian, Vivacious, US born son, Oct 76, 5'11", BS (civil engg), well employed as Quality Engineer, from cultured, educated, pretty girls. Call: 334/283-5340. Email: jaygosalia@hotmail.com

M865: Gujarati, very handsome, accomplished, vegetarian, non smoker, non drinker, spiritual, US born boy, May 73, 6'0", MD, currently doing MBA, from Ivy league university, seeks alliance from well educated family oriented, religious Jain / Hindu girls. Please send bio / photo. Call: 856/435-9148.

M866: Correspondence invited for Jain, US raised, well educated, vegetarian boy, born Aug 75, 5'5", 110 lb, BS & MS in Biomedical Engg from prestigious US Universities, well employed for last three years, from Jain, US born, well educated, professional girls. Please email: mjain@alumni.duke.edu

M867: Attorney, handsome, 29 / 6'4", vegetarian son. We prefer vegetarian tall Jain professional girl. Send photo and biodata. Santosh Kothari, 775 Aran Dr, Roswell, Georgia 30076. Ph: 770/992-0105. Email: skothari@bellsouth.net

M868: Alliance invited by Gujarati parents for handsome, brilliant, accomplished, US born son, July 73, 5'7", 150 lb, PhD, well employed as Research scientist, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 219/272-0125. Email: gvora@microbio.umass.edu

M872: Alliance invited for brilliant, handsome, vegetarian, Gujarati boy, born July 75, 5'6", 140 lb, MS from reputed Uni, well employed as senior software Eng., from cultured, vegetarian, educated girls. Call: 510/502-6972. Email: bhautik@yahoo.com

M873: Proposals invited for handsome, vegetarian, US Citizen, Gujarati boy, born Sept 73, 5'11", 160 lb, BS (accounting), applying for CPA, well employed as Sr. Accountant, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 201/222-3584 or 609/799-9594. Email: devang111@yahoo.com

M877: Alliance invited by Gujarati parents for handsome, fair, talented, vegetarian, US born son, Nov 73, 5'11", MS (Comp Engg) from Texas Uni. Austin, well employed as Sr. Software Engineer in Silicon Valley. Please send biodata / photo. Email: shah0811@hotmail.com

M881: Proposals invited for very handsome, accomplished, talented, amiable, vegetarian, US citizen Gujarati boy, born May 72, 5'9", 150 lb, MD, currently doing 2nd year fellowship in Nephrology at prominent US Uni. from well educated, pretty, cultured, family oriented girls. Call: 352/332-6403. Email: paragshah@hotmail.com

M882: Gujarati family invite responses for very handsome, vivacious, talented, successful professional, vegetarian boy, born May 77, 6'0", 145 lb, BS / Software professional, from cultured, educated, vegetarian girls. Call: 631/423-9647. Email: jdoshi@reliablegroup.com

M883: 27 yr / 6'2" / 175 Gujarati Jain boy, very handsome, MS, MBA from top school, US citizen, highly successful in Silicon Valley, seeks career oriented, intelligent, attractive girl. Send bio and photo to: kmg4@hotmail.com

M886: Gujarati parents invite proposals for very handsome, very fair, accomplished, vegetarian son, born March 77, 5'11", 175 lb, MS (Comp Sc) from Florida Tech., well positioned with GE, from cultured, professional, pretty, vegetarian Gujarati girls. Call: 321/752-5885. Email: sshah1977@hotmail.com

M887: Proposals invited with biodata / photo for handsome, very successful, talented, vegetarian Gujarati boy, born May 70, 5'9", MD, doing residency in Surgery in NJ, from well educated, slim, pretty, caring, vegetarian, Gujarati, cultured girls. Call: 732/728-0166. Email: rajivshah70@msn.com

M888: Alliance invited for good-looking, intelligent, vegetarian, Gujarati boy, born July 73, 5'10", 122 lb, Bcom, working with international co., from cultured, educated girls. Call: 905/294-1374. Email: h_shah_2001@yahoo.com

MATRIMONIALS - MALE

M889: Gujarati parents invite responses for handsome, intelligent, vegetarian, US born son, July 76, 5'7", 145 lb, MBA, pursuing carrier in investment banking, from educated, professional, cultured girls. Call: 412/780-6051. Email: ams323@columbia.edu

M890: Physician uncle invite responses for very handsome, fair, tall, talented, vegetarian Gujarati nephew, born June 79, 6'1", 170 lb, BS Comp Sc., well employed in India and willing to settle in USA, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 813/968-9698. Email: arshah@pol.net

M892: Jain parents invite correspondence with biodata / photo from professional, vegetarian girls, for very fair / handsome, Canadian born (Toronto) son, 27, 5'10", MD (Fifth year resident specialist) Email: sandyjain99@hotmail.com

M893: Gujarati Family invites biodata / photo for very handsome, fair, brilliant, US born son, Feb 75, 5'10", 155 lb, BS (mgmt IS), well employed with top 5 firm in Chicago as IS consultant. Call: 262/242-1581.

M894: Jain parents invite proposals for handsome, athletic, vegetarian, US citizen son, born Feb 71, 5'8", 150 lb, BS (Fin), well employed with reputed co., from cultured, vegetarian, kutchi / Gujarati girls. Call: 301/890-4385. Email: angarang@hotmail.com

AM184: Alliance invited for very successful, very handsome, cultured, vegetarian, never married Gujarati boy, born Oct 65, 5'8", 145 lb, BS, working for further study, very well established in own business, from cultured, good looking girls. Call: 423/614-0084. Email: mnsheth@hotmail.com

AM320: 26 / 6'2", MIS-Computer, handsome, vegetarian son. We prefer vegetarian tall Jain professional girl. Photo / bio-data a must. Sanjay Kothari, 157 Gilmer St, Athens, GA 30606. Email: sjay309@msn.com

AM321: Alliance invited for talented, handsome, successful, vegetarian, US born boy, March 68, 5'10", 140 lb, BS, working MBA, Own / managing three gift shops, from cultured, educated, US born / raised girls. Call: 301/577-8459. Email: ans27@aol.com

AM322: Uncle invite responses invited for very handsome, talented, vegetarian, Gujarati nephew, born Dec 78, 6'0", BS, MS (Electronics), from cultured, educated girls. Currently he is in India and willing to settle in USA. Call: 813/932-4446. Email: nmandaliya@pol.net

AM325: Alliance invited for handsome, intelligent, Gujarati boy, born March 75, 5'9", MS EE, well employed with multinational co., as Electrical Engineer, from cultured, caring, educated girls. Call: 561/740-0536. Email: parimal_mehta@hotmail.com

AM329: Correspondence invited with biodata / photo by Gujarati Physician for handsome, fair, talented, US raised son, born Oct 74, 5'7", BS, pursuing Master, Software Consultant, from cultured, educated, caring, professional girls. Call: 713/383-7280.

AM330: 26 / 5'11", 160, Gujarati boy, fun loving, easygoing, handsome, MS in MIS from US, Computer programmer. Looking for someone with good mix of east and west. Reply with biodata / photo at: young_nice_man@hotmail.com

AM 331: Gujarati parents invite responses for handsome, highly accomplished, vegetarian, US raised son, born Dec 68, 5'11", 180 lb, BS (Finance), Vice President in a family owned huge nationwide organization, innocently divorced from a never consummated very brief marriage, from suitable cultured educated match. Call: 847/724-5376. Email: Nilesh s25@aol.com

AM337: Gujarati sister invite proposals for handsome, intelligent, vegetarian brother, born Sept 74, 5'6", 125 lb, BE comp eng, MS comp sc, well employed in IT industry in California, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 831/479-8287 or 805/560-8533. Email: hetanss@hotmail.com

AM338: We are interested in having our son get to know open minded and outgoing girls. He is handsome, vegetarian, well employed Software Engineer, born Nov 73, 5'7", 130 lb. Please contact us at: - mkshah@enteract.com

AM339: Gujarati Physician invite proposals for his handsome, vivacious, talented, amiable, social, vegetarian, US born son, Nov 75, 5'9", BS (speech & hearing sc), MS (audiology), (2001 end), planning to begin private practice after finishing MS, from cultured, pretty, educated girls. Call: 602/863-1073. Email: amitg1@aol.com

AM340: Alliance invited for Gujarati Jain Professional Accountant, cultured, vegetarian, US citizen, issueless innocent divorcee, 46, 5'5", from cultured, educated females. Email: bcshah@lycos.com or mail to: 94 Purcell street, # 2, Staten Island, NY 10310.

AM341: Family members invite proposals for recently widowed educated, Gujarati Jain, 48, 5'6", (one 8 yr son), planning to relocate from Bombay to USA, from cultured, educated females. Email: bcshah@lycos.com or mail to: 94 Purcell street, # 2, Staten Island, NY 10310.

ARE YOU MOVING ?

Please send your change of address to

JAINA HEADQUARTER

PO Box 700,

Getzville, NY 14068-0700

Phone/Fax: 716/636-5342

or email: jainahq@aol.com

MATRIMONIALS - FEMALE

F337: Physician, MD (Internal Medicine), slim, virtuous, vegetarian, 30 yrs, 5'4", 115 lb, Jain daughter. Parents invite biodata / photo from vegetarian educated boys. Mail to: 13660 Fairhill Road, Apt #308, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

F355: Alliance invited for beautiful, talented, Gujarati, E / W blend, North American born daughter, Dec 71, BA (economics & psychology), BAS (accounting), pursuing CPA, employed with CPA firm in USA, as an accountant, from Gujarati professionals. Call: 312/335-9376. Cell: 416/618-6485. Email: diamonds4ever11@hotmail.com

F454: Gujarati parents invite correspondence for beautiful, charming, accomplished, vegetarian, US raised daughter, born Aug 70, 5'5", 120 lb, MBA, well positioned with Arthur Anderson, from well educated, cultured, boys. Call: 716/242-8586. Email: hjmithani@hotmail.com

F581: Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful, talented, cultured daughter, born Dec 73, 5'1", 110 lb, BS (molecular biology), biotech / software professional in Silicon Valley, CA, from well educated, Gujarati professionals. Call: 408/272-6833.

F621: Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful, talented, vegetarian, US born daughter, Dec 73, 5'7", MD, 1st year resident in Internal Medicine, from, vegetarian MD boys. Call: 407/366-8810.

F628: Correspondence invited by Gujarati Jain family for very beautiful, slim, charming, vegetarian, US citizen daughter, born April 74, 5'3", MS (Mgmt), BS comp science, well employed, blend of east / west, family values, from cultured well educated vegetarian boys. Call: 732/549-8684.

F782: Gujarati parents invite proposals for beautiful, attractive, slim, vegetarian daughter, born Oct 76, 5'4", 110 lb, RN, well employed as RN at EMH, from cultured, educated boys. Call: 440/284-3947. Email: shahres@msn.com

F821: Jain parents from NY invite responses for very beautiful, fair, talented, charming, vegetarian daughter, born Oct 76, 5'4", 125 lb, AA, pursuing dip. Web designing, working in a family business, from well educated, cultured, vegetarian boys. Call: 718/897-4692.

F834: Gujarati parents invite correspondence with biodata / photo for US born, beautiful, charming, cultured, virtuous, daughter, Nov 73, 5'6", 118 lb, MD, doing 3rd year residency in OB/GYN, from educated, vegetarian boys. Call: 513/563-5013. Email: Mehta@fuse.net

F863: Gujarati parents invite proposals for beautiful, fair, slim, talented, virtuous, vegetarian, US born daughter, Oct 75, 5'2", 105 lb, BS (Fin / MIS), well positioned in a reputed co., from well educated, cultured boys. Call: 334/283-5340. Email: guni3@yahoo.com

F869: Gujarati parents invite proposals for beautiful, fair, talented, vegetarian, US citizen daughter, born Aug 77, 5'9", 140 lb, OPTOMETRY student, from well educated, professional, cultured boys. Email: sshah@pco.edu

F870: Jain parents invite proposals for slim, attractive, talented, vegetarian, daughter, born June 79, 5'2", 103 lb, BS comp. Sc. USA, Software engr (Bay Area), from well-educated boys. Call: 925/872-2618. Email: masteyr@hotmail.com

F871: US born / raised, consultant for prestigious global firm, lively and loving, beautiful, fair, family oriented daughter with Indian values. Good dancer and highly ambitious, 5'2", 27. Gujarati family invites responses from cultured, educated boys. Ph: 727/786-4074. neki@tempabay.rr.com

F874: Gujarati sister invite proposals for beautiful, talented, successful, vegetarian sister, born Aug 71, 5'0", 110 lb, BCom, DFM, DHR, well employed as Manager in Bombay, India and willing to settle in USA. Call: 203/854-5496. Email: manisha_sheth@yahoo.com

F875: Alliance invited by Gujarati parents for pretty, charming, vegetarian, US raised daughter, born Nov 72, 5'1", 105 lb, BS (Accounting), well employed as Accountant, divorcee with 3-year-old son, from suitable cultured match. Call: 203/933-8067.

F876: Parents invite correspondence for 4th year US Medical student, fair, charming, slim, beautiful, musically talented, vegetarian, family oriented daughter, born Nov 76, 5'3", from US MD, cultured boys. Call: 281/491-0792. Email: shardaagrawal@yahoo.com

F878: Alliance invited by Gujarati parents for beautiful, fair, slim, talented, US born daughter, March 75, 5'7", MD, doing second year residency in internal medicine, from professionally qualified boys. Please send biodata and photo. Email: shah3003@hotmail.com

F879: Gujarati parents invite proposals for pretty, talented, caring, vegetarian daughter, born Dec 74, 5'5", 117 lb, BA (business management), well employed, from cultured, educated boys. Call: 914/376-7085. Email: rimpleshah@hotmail.com

F880: Gujarati parents invite responses for pretty, slim, cultured, vegetarian, virtuous daughter, born Feb 75, 5'1", 100 lb, BS EE (Johns Hopkins Uni), well employed with reputed co., from cultured, educated boys. Call: 410/551-9098. Email: sq22181@yahoo.com

F884: Gujarati parents invite proposals for pretty, intelligent, caring, vegetarian daughter, born Nov 76, 5'4", 125 lb, BS (comp science), well employed, from educated, cultured, vegetarian boys. Call: 718/468-1426.

F885: Gujarati sisters invite responses from cultured, educated boys for beautiful, talented, vegetarian sister, born May 75, 5'1", BA (Eco), Post Graduate: Mass communication, well employed in Bombay willing to settle in USA. Ph: 703/920-1461 or 703/892-355 dkalpesh@hotmail.com

MATRIMONIALS - FEMALE

F891: Jain parents invite responses for pretty, tall, fair & slim, 5'7", 26 years old 116 lb, BS(Hons), loving with a good sense of humor, working for a major US corporation in North East, belonging to a very well settled professional Jain family in USA. Call: 704/541-8659.

F895: Gujarati parents invite responses for attractive, beautiful, caring vegetarian, US born daughter, June 76, 5'4", 110 lb, BS (biology), 5th year pharmacy student pursuing PharmD, from well educated, vegetarian, Gujarati professionals. Call: 518/756-3181. Email: sweetes21@aol.com

F896: Gujarati parents invite proposals for beautiful, charming, slim, intelligent, vegetarian, US born daughter, Dec 76, 5'3", 4th Year Medical Student, MD (May 2002), from well educated, cultured, vegetarian boys. Call: 706/855-7045.

AF129: Gujarati parents invite correspondence for beautiful, charming, highly accomplished, vegetarian, US raised daughter, born April 69, 5'3", MD. In a group practice with leading hospital of USA, from well educated, professional boys. Call: 410/882-9697.

AF171: Alliance invited with biodata / photo by Gujarati Physician, for beautiful, fair, attractive, US raised daughter, born 72, 5'5", MD, finishing OB / GY residency in June 2002, from well educated, professional boys including MD. Call: 419/868-7476.

AF237: Gujarati parents invite correspondence for US citizen, vegetarian, fair, pretty daughter, born March 76, 5'0", BS Healthcare administration and Comp. Science, well employed, from educated, vegetarian Jain boys. Call: 732/721-5481.

AF307: Responses invited for Gujarati vegetarian, fair, pretty, talented girl, born Jan 76, 5'5", MBA (Finance), working with Fortune 500 Co., in a senior position. Call: 610/317-8027 or Fax: 610/419-1248.

AF318: Alliance invited for pretty, intelligent, vegetarian, Gujarati, US born girl, Dec 77, 5'4", 110, BSBA, well employed as Fin analyst with Proctor Gamble, from well educated, professional boys. Call: 937/836-8080.

AF319: Gujarati parents invite correspondence for slim, beautiful, US born daughter, July 73, 5'8", 115 lb, MD, completed residency, doing Cardiology fellowship, from professional boys. Call: 856/751-2808.

AF323: Proposals invited by North Indian parents for their pretty, talented, slim, affectionate, active & outgoing US citizen daughter, born Aug 73, 5'3", MBA, well employed, from cultured, educated, professional boys. Call: 713/849-5892. Email: RitaAlok@aol.com

AF324: Alliance invited for charming, beautiful, intelligent, US citizen female, born June 67, 5'3", 115 lb, BA, well employed with Airlines, widow with daughter (5 yr), son (3 yr), from suitable match. Call: 813/932-4446. Email: vibhuti2000@hotmail.com

AF326: Gujarati parents invite proposals with biodata / photo for beautiful, charming, talented, cultured daughter, born Oct 59, 5'6", 140 lb, PhD (Chemistry), from cultural, educated, handsome, Jain boys. Call: 909/927-7580. Email: cvmehta@hotmail.com

AF327: Proposals with biodata / photo invited by Gujarati parents for beautiful, attractive, virtuous daughter, born May 73, 5'3", 125 lb, Final year in Nursing, from educated, cultured, handsome, Jain boys. Call: 909/927-7580. Email: cvmehta@hotmail.com

AF328: Alliance invited for pretty, caring, highly accomplished, convent educated, never married Gujarati girl, born July 63, 5'1", MS, well positioned as consultant to entrepreneurs, from suitable match. Currently she is in India and willing to settle in USA. India ph: 91-281- 237773. Email: tuptisshah@yahoo.com

AF332: Alliance invited for outgoing, caring, US born, Punjabi Jain daughter, 29, 5'3", MS Physical Therapy. Enjoys reading, working out, arts & spending time with friends and family. Seeking US born professionals, Punjabi, 29-34, blend of east/west values, prefer West coast / Seattle area. Email: jain0404@yahoo.com or call: 206/525-4710.

AF334: Correspondence invited by Gujarati Jain family for their beautiful, talented, caring, vegetarian, US citizen daughter w / family values, Feb 74, 5'2", BS & MS (Comp Eng) from well educated, handsome, cultured, vegetarian, professional boys. Email: nisha623@yahoo.com

AF335: Jain parents invite proposals for their beautiful, intelligent, amiable, vegetarian, US citizen daughter, Nov 76, 5'1", BS (Chem. Eng), MS (Comp Sci), from well educated, handsome, professional candidates. Email: jigsha7@yahoo.com

AF336: Sister invite responses for attractive, pretty, caring sister, born Oct 72, 5'4", BS, post graduate diploma, Comp graphic designer, pursuing software programming, innocently divorcee of two months marriage (no issue), from suitable match. She is in India and willing to settle in USA. Call: 831/479-8287 or 805/560-8533. Email: s_k_shah@hotmail.com

AF342: Correspondence invited by Gujarati Jain family, for beautiful, caring, never married US citizen daughter, 44, 5'4", BA, from cultured, educated, vegetarian males. Email: bcshah@lycos.com or mail to: 94 Purcell street, # 2, Staten Island, NY 10310.

AF343: Alliance invited for beautiful, caring, vegetarian, talented, Gujarati girl, born Dec 76, 5'0", 100 lb, MS (Microbiology), well employed as Scientist in R & D of reputed pharmaceutical co., from cultured, well educated, vegetarian, Gujarati boys. Email: shreya_shah40@hotmail.com Phone: 816/671-0546.



YOUNG JAINS OF AMERICA

Federation of Jain Associations in North America

A Non-Profit Tax Exempt Religious Organization. IRS Code Section 501 (c)(3) EI #54-1280028

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September 10, 2001

Jai Jinendra

YJA has just completed a successful year which consisted of several great accomplishments. The earthquake relief effort was a great success and aided thousands of people in India, thanks to all the great efforts of youth and adults in the US, collecting and shipping medicine and supplies. Similarly, Mahavir Jayanti celebrations across the US, in over 15 cities, performed the 27 Past Lives of Bhagawan Mahavir play, produced by YJA. Organized by Pavan Zaveri, the 'play in a box' was a fantastic success nationwide, allowing hundreds of youth to participate in the performances.

In addition, three regional conferences were held in the West, South, and Southeast regions. Finally, YJA made a strong presence at the JAINA convention in Chicago this past 4th of July weekend. From selling newly designed YJA t-shirts to creating six youth sessions, YJA made a strong impact on all the youth that attended the convention. Through this successful, active year, YJA will springboard the enthusiasm from its members into the upcoming year.

As the summer months wind down and school once again resumes, YJA is kicked into high gear once again. During our executive board meeting in early August, we planned several exciting projects for this upcoming year, in addition to the grand New Jersey 2002 Convention. In order to allow our members to remain dynamic, we will be actively pursuing a grass roots approach with all our projects.

In our desire to promote Jain values and ideals, YJA will support and initiate several volunteering activities, highlighted mainly by our collaboration with Habitat for Humanities. We plan to lead small groups of youth into underprivileged neighborhoods to help build and reconstruct homes. Our Foster Focus program, citing several cities across the country, will help to activate and elevate youth involvement on a local level. Please be on the lookout for YJA in your neighborhood and contact your Regional Coordinator for more information.

Please mark your calendars! The YJA 2002 Convention will be held in New Jersey from July 4th to 7th, 2002. For details and registration information, see our web page at www.yja.org.

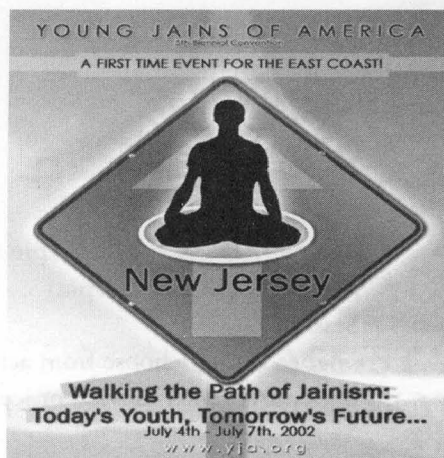
Chintan Shah & Birud Jhaveri
Co-Chairs, YJA 2001-2002
www.yja.org

Young Jains of America (YJA) is the umbrella youth organization of the Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA). The mission of YJA is to be recognized nationally and internationally as an umbrella youth organization for establishing a network to share Jain heritage and religion through youth.

By Suchita Shah

YJA Teams up with H4H

In cities all across America, YJA will help host a group of kids for a week to assist Habitat 4 Humanities' cause of helping those less fortunate. H4H is an organization that builds houses in underprivileged neighborhoods nationwide. Registration for this phenomenal volunteering effort starts at the end of September and YJA starts building houses beginning in early spring. Last year, over 11,000 kids participated with Habitat for Humanity. Space is very limited, so sign up with the closest location. Contact Neel Shetti at Neel.shetti@yja.org for more information.



MIDWEST JATRA

The Midwest region of Young Jains of America will be embarking on a Jatra throughout the Midwest region during the Thanksgiving Holiday (November 22nd to the 25th). A bus full of enthusiastic young Jains will begin in Detroit, Michigan and head towards Chicago, Illinois. After one night in Detroit, and one in Chicago, the bus will travel north to visit the newly built beautiful temple in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The participants will return for one final night in Chicago, filled with social and religious activities. At each temple, youth will be able to participate in Chatyavandan, Pujas, slokas, meditation, and bhajans. The goal of this journey is to teach youth about Darasars and their decorum in the temple. The bus will return to Detroit on Sunday afternoon, the 25th of November. Please sign up early for this fabulous event.

For more information, e-mail the Midwest Regional Coordinator, Suchita Shah, at suchita.shah@yja.org.

During the weekend of August 9th, 2001, 13 of the current executive YJA board members with 2 former board members gathered in Washington D.C. for a four day meeting. Although flights were delayed, we finally joined late Thursday Night. We got to know each other through games and activities. These 14 other people would become an integral part of our lives in the next year.

Early next day, we started our meeting by first reflecting on the past events and what we could learn from them. It was long and tedious, yet in the end gave each of us a clearer image of what we wished to accomplish in the next year. Next, we held our internal elections. Each of us found our positions among the board and began to work towards our personal goals. After a long successful day, a formal dinner and driving tour of the D.C. landmarks.

Saturday, we arose tired, but ready to make decisions and brainstorm. We first met with JAINA representatives, in person and on the phone. We discussed their goals, and our goals, and worked on ways to strengthen our communication. Following long discussions, we decided on our two unified projects. We got to work on each of our committees, either Habitat for Humanities or Foster Focus. These two projects were geared towards developing smaller Jain groups, and reestablishing stronger groups. That night, we spent getting to know the New Jersey Convention Committee, who came down especially to meet with us.

Next morning with virtually no sleep, we woke up to meet more with the New Jersey board. They gave us updates, and developed their ideas further, making each of us excited for what would come out of this. We said some more goodbyes and then headed to a combined YJA/NJCC lunch. Finally, following the meal, the last of us left, sad to say goodbye, but happy at the amount of work that we had accomplished. The meeting laid out foundations for YJA this year, now we steer ahead hoping to make this the best year yet.



STRONGER JAINA-YJA IN THE FUTURE:

YJA board met with Girish Shah and Sushil Jain of the JAINA board, while teleconferencing Prem Jain and Bipin Parikh. The future between YJA and JAINA was discussed, as well as technological future.

YOUNG JAINS OF AMERICA:

Young Jains Conference to be held in Pittsburgh Thanksgiving Weekend

The Young Jains of Pittsburgh, along with YJA, are proud to host the Pittsburgh Young Jain's Convention which will occur from November 22nd to the 25th, 2001 (Thanksgiving weekend). The convention will be held at the Carnegie-Mellon University and attendees will stay at the Residence Inn. The total cost for food and housing is \$100. We are expecting close to 100 attendees. We anticipate a nice blend between religious and social events to help youth acquire more awareness regarding Jainism and how to maintain our culture not only in a western society, but also into the new millennium. We are aiming for the youth to develop friendships with other from various societies. Past regional conventions have been remarkable and rewarding and we look forward to welcoming all of you. Look for our website coming soon at: <http://www.yja.org/pittsburghconference>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 22:

2-4:30pm	Check-In
5pm	"Get Acquainted" Ice Breakers
5:15pm	Opening/Namokar Mantra
6pm	Dinner
7pm	Small Group Ice Breakers
8:30pm	DJ/Dance

Friday, November 23:

8am	Breakfast
9am	Yoga
10:15am	Group Session
11:15pm	Small Breakout Sessions
12pm	Lunch
1pm	Real World Session
2:30pm	Sports/Activities
5pm	Dinner
8pm	Cultural Show and Garba/Bhangra

Saturday, November 24:

8am	Breakfast
9am	Yoga
10:15am	Group Session
11:45am	Temple Trip (w/ lunch at 1pm and man in English at 1:40pm)
Pratikra	Session
3:30pm	Session
6:30pm	Night Outing (choose from activities, like sports game, movies, or ice skating)

Sunday, November 25:

8am	Breakfast
9am	Yoga
10am	Small Group Session
11am	Closing Ceremonies

YOUNG JAIN PROFESSIONALS (YJP)

Support your own community.

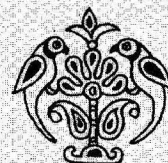
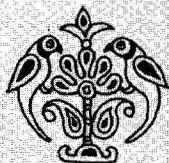
Meet, interact, network people from your age group

Coming Soon...

The Brand New Young Jain Professionals (YJP)

Stay tuned for more info...

For more info contact Mihir Shah at Mihirshah@hotmail.com



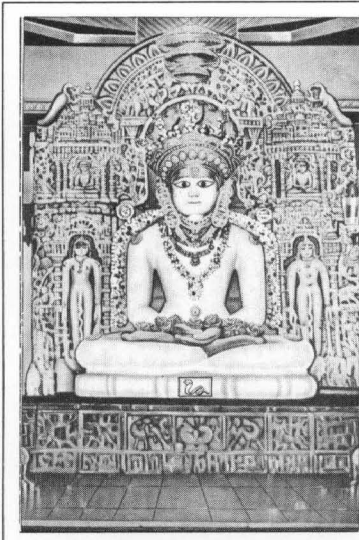
With best compliments to JAINA

**Dr. Navin C. Mehta,
M.B.B.S., M.D., P.C.**

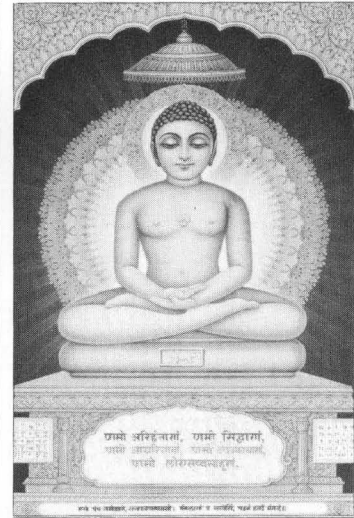
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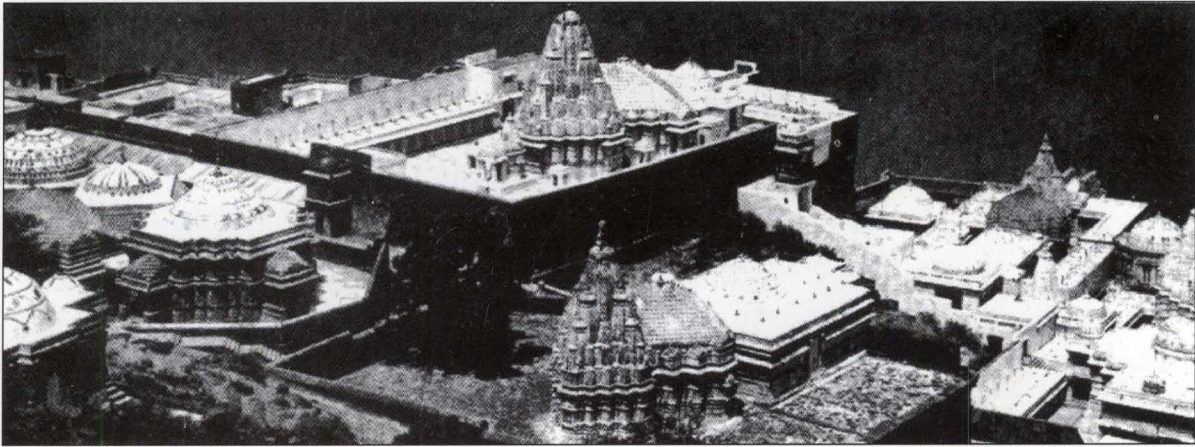


Tirthankar Mahavir

Jain temple format

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