

# JAIN DIGEST

MAY-JUN 2015 ISSUE



A publication by the Federation of Jain Associations of North America





# Jain Digest

A publication of the

Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA)

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Academic Scholarship Committee

Ahimsak Eco-Vegan Committee

Award Committee

Calendar Committee

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Education Committee

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Interfaith Activies \_World council of Jains

Jain Centre Liaison Committee

Jain Diaspora Committee

Jivdaya Committee

Jain Milan Committee

Jain Network Forum

Loan Program Committee

Long Range Planning Committee

Media Communications & Public Relations

Media Production committee

Membership Committee

Patron Program committee

Planned Giving Committee

Public Affairs Council committee

Technology Committee

Upliftment Committee

World Community Services Committee

Yatra99

## **Disclosure**

The Editorial Team endeavors to publish all the materials that are submitted but reserves the right to reduce, revise, reject or edit any article, letter, or abstract for clarity, space, or policy reasons. The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Team. These articles are published with the authors' names. The articles written or compiled by the Editorial Team are published as a joint contribution of the entire Editorial Team, and do not necessarily represent the views of Jaina.

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## From The Editor in Chief

Jai Jinendra !



Current issue of Jain Digest, offers information on Jain Diaspora outside of India and North America, in the limited time we were able to spend on the subject. After reaching out to the Jains, wherever we were able to reach, we started receiving information in bits and pieces. Slowly with these bits and pieces, plus interviewing individuals from

the local centers and doing research on the net we are able to create write ups. You will notice that we have detailed information on some and not on all them. This does not in any way suggest that some centers are of any lesser importance – it is just this what we were able to gather.

Migration to Africa, Middle East, Burma began in the early 19th century. In UK and Belgium major migration took place in the middle of the 20th century and to South East Asia in late 20th century. Migration to Australia began in 21st century. At present, there are more than 100,000 Jains who live in USA and Canada. There are 25 to 30,000 Jains in Europe, 10,000 in Middle East, 9 to 10,000 in South East Asia, 4 to 5000 in Africa and 3 to 4000 in Australia.

Asian migration to modern day Kenya began with the construction of the Uganda railway around 1896 when some 32,000 laborers were recruited from British India to build railway lines. Once the railway was completed, many of these laborers voluntarily settled in East Africa and brought families from India. The early Asian settlers were predominately from Gujarat and Punjab. The railway opened the interior to trade and many soon began migrating away from the coastal cities. After the Second World War, Asians were found in all occupations, in business, the police force, bureaucracy, and many other professions. Their commercial skills contributed to the economic development and prosperity of Kenya and the rest of Africa. From there some Indians migrated to the United Kingdom, United States and Canada.

Our heart-felt Michhami-Dukkadam if we have missed or misrepresented any information, while we tried our best to present the information to the best of our ability. Please keep sending your feedback. Please write to [jaindigest@jaina.org](mailto:jaindigest@jaina.org).

With Warm Regards  
Lata Champsee, Editor

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# A Message

From the President

Prem Jain



Jai Jinendra,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you a number of accomplishments we can celebrate as a community. Over the past year, our objective was to transform JAINA from a volunteer-based organization to a professional institution. With your support, we have taken a number of steps to achieve our shared vision to Evolve and promote Jain practices, Educate Jains and non-Jains to create a strong North American Jain community, Expand an awareness of Jainism as we create a global impact & Energize our community by evoking social change. We are continuing to establish a central hub for communication between organizations and projects.

Below are some highlights:

## YJA Convention + New Board

We are proud of a successful YJA Convention, which took place in Washington, D.C. this past July 3-6th. It brought together over 650 youth and young adults under the theme "Young Jains: Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders". The convention was even covered by the TV Asia. We also like to congratulate the new 2014 – 2015 YJA Executive Committee.

## Celebrating Ahimsa Day at the White House

On Oct 2, JAINA was represented at the fourth annual Seva conference at the White House at a daylong conference with the theme of "Dharma Dialogue: Seva and Social Justice". In association with the Hindu American Seva Communities, JAINA was invited to participate in a Dharmic Council that brought together members of various dharmic faiths.

## 2nd Annual Executive Committee Meeting at Siddhachala

JAINA held its second annual Board Meeting at Siddhachalam in New Jersey from Oct. 17-19. Over 20 JAINA leaders gathered with the Executive Committee to further expand JAINA's vision for the next two years. The Committee agreed to build stronger partnerships between member organizations,

partner organizations, and JAINA committees; to provide a strong platform for women, senior citizens, and younger generations; and to support stronger relationships between local Jain centers. Many thanks go to the Committee Chair and President of Siddhachalam, Jaipat Singh Jain, for hosting the event at their beautiful center.

## Raising Funds for JAINA & JAINA Projects

In an endeavor to further establish our JAINA Office and to support JAINA Committees Projects, we held a Holiday Fundraising drive, which yielded nearly \$90,000. This was a nationally coordinated effort between all Jain Centers across North America. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have contributed and helped to make JAINA a stronger organization as we move forward into 2015.

Descriptions of JAINA's projects can be seen here: [www.jaina.org/projects](http://www.jaina.org/projects).

To donate to JAINA's many efforts, I invite you to click here: [www.jaina.org/donate](http://www.jaina.org/donate).



## Successful year for Young Jain Professionals (YJP)

We would like to congratulate YJP for their wonderful success in their first year back. They held nearly 50 regional events bringing together hundreds of young Jain professionals across North America. They have established themselves as the premier resource for professional networking to serve the 25 – 42 yr. old demographic of the Jain Community.

## Celebrating Acharya Tulsi and Virchand Raghavji Gandhi

2014 also marked a momentous year to celebrate some of the most influential leaders in the Jain Community. It was Archya Tulsi's 100th birth anniversary. There are a number of accomplishments to acknowledge in Archya Tulsi's lifetime, which includes the founding of the Jain Vishva Bharati Institute (an education and research institute), the creation of the Anuvrat Movement, as well as the authorship of over 100 books. We also celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi (VRG), who represented Jainism during the first Parliament of Religions Conference in 1893. VRG's commitment and contribution was the application of Jain principles and philosophies as it relates to business ethics and policy-making.

### Official Days to Celebrate Jain Values

JAINA has been instrumental in establishing four official dates to celebrate Jain values. Here are the dates to put in your calendars:

- April 2 – Mahavira Jayanti / Live and Let Help Day
- Sept. 21 - International Forgiveness Day (Saturday following the Paryushan / Daksh Lakshan Parv)
- Oct. 2 - National Ahimsa Day
- Nov. 2 – World Compassion & Vegan Day

### Celebrating World Compassion & Vegan Day Events across North America

On Nov 2, JAINA officially celebrated World Compassion & Vegan Day! The organizing committee comprised of volunteer teams from across 8 Jain centers in North America. Nearly 1500 people gathered in total to enjoy engaging and interactive presentations by industry experts, educators, and passionate community members drew connections between the application of Jain values with issues such as practices in the dairy industry, conscious investing, and other socially relevant topics.

In addition to the above highlights, we have also made progress in the provision of scholarships to Jain students within North American and abroad. JAINA's Upliftment Program has also achieved much success providing assistance to children and families in numerous states in India. To strengthen our ties with the Jain community in India, this past February, we sent a JAINA delegation to explore more opportunities for collaboration.

This year, we launched our yearlong Jain Leadership Fellows program as well. I would like to thank all of

the Committees for their leadership and contribution in taking JAINA to the next level.

As we look ahead, JAINA's main objective this year is to continue to transform JAINA from a volunteer-based organization to a professional institution and bring continued value to our community and spread the awareness of Jainism to the non-Jain world. In Oct of 2015, a JAINA delegation will be attending the Parliament of World Religions Conference in Salt Lake City. To further strengthen JAINA's sustainability, we would like to explore the possibility of incorporating a faith-based charity model that would enable our eligibility to receive corporate and government funding.





We aim to expand our Jain studies programs in current institutions such as Florida International University (FIU), Claremont Lincoln University (CLU), Ahimsa Center, while expanding to new ones such as University of Northern Texas (UNT) and University of California Irvine (UCI). Expand our education services to our youth and adults through our internship and scholarships.

We look forward to meeting you at the upcoming JAINA Convention July 2-5th in Atlanta, GA with the theme of "Jainism: World of Nonviolence". With over 2,800 registrants so far, the 2015 JAINA Convention is sure to be an unforgettable experience.

To keep up with the increasing demands of our community, we aim to re-examine JAINA's organizational structure to support larger landmark projects such as creating a Jain Education & Youth Center, Jain University / Research Center, Jain hospital, Jain Entrepreneur Fund and many others. We would be provide greater services for two following expanding segments, our seniors and mixed marriage couples.

Lastly, we would like to thank you, our beloved community members. It is only with your continued support that we are able to provide more services and opportunities, year after year.

Sincerely,

  
Prem Jain

## Prayer

*The prayer is the universally accepted mode of communication between the devotee and the divine, practiced in all religious traditions of our planet. We find it prevalence universal and international because no elaborate preparations, either in the form of materials or in the form of methods is required. The only real instrument required is to approach Him, is divine love, not tainted by selfish motive or falsehood.*

*Prayer heals and helps the devotee in his spiritual progress as he directly communicates with the divine. Mass prayers are helpful for all mankind as they produce vibrations of peace, love and well-being of all creatures. Prayer is the best instrument for the individual.*

*May we all practice this simple and beneficial religious practice in day to day life and derive immense benefit from it.*

OM SHANTI OM

Shri Atmanandji, Kobe, Gujarat





# “To get together is Beginning • To live together is PROGRESS To work together is SUCCESS”

*From the Co-Editor*



The Jain Diaspora outside India was mainly established during the past few decades. It has mainly emerged as a result of traders, business people or professionals who came in search of opportunities. They kept their distinctive identities by forming religious and social groups, building temples, cultural centers and by following Jain rituals.

This issue covers many countries where Jainism flourished in the past and in some countries its remnants are left. In many places, Jains established themselves, built the temples and centers for the present and future generations, to keep the philosophy of the Jainism ‘Ahimsa, Anekantvaad and Aparigraha alive on the basis of Equality’.

This issue was inspired by a family tragedy in Fort Myers, Florida, where a Jain family came to rescue a distressed family. Discussing that with the editor, Lataben Champsee, we decided to work on this subject.

We contacted many Jain centers in various countries and sent them specific questions regarding their centers. We received some articles, some answers to the questions and personal communications. I have visited some centers in Africa, Belgium and Australia. We also collected some information from various web sites. Here is the questionnaire I sent out.

**A: How the community got united and formed the Jain Organization?**

### **Classification of Organizations**

1. Community services only.
2. Idols in Hindu Temple
3. Gruh (GHAR) Derasar +Community activities
4. Shikharbandhi derasar inside the building
5. Shikharbandhi Derasar, Upashraya and other community facilities

**B: Who are the main Scholars who visit them to help to inspire, motivate and organize Jain Religious activities?**

Shree Gurudev Chitrabhanu , Shree Jinchandraji (TriputiBandhu), Veerayatan Acharya Shree Chandanaji group, Shree Shraman and Shramniji of Terapanthi sect (Acharya Tulsi), Shree Rakeshbhai Zaveri , Institute of Jainology, Vir sainiks of Tapovan, Shree Nirmalsagarji, Shree Dhirajbhai Pandit, Shree Chandrakantbhai Mehta, Didi of Guru Namramuni and many others have been visiting those sanghs and helping to them to keep Jainism flourishing.

**C: Where Jainism flourished in the past and now practicing at minimum level or none? (Yangon, Pakistan, Aden)**

D: Where it has progressed well, so others can learn? (Nairobi): The attitude and outlook of youths towards life and society plays a determining role in shaping of Society. Youth need to empower themselves for promotion of youth movement in the country, with a view towards encouraging the spirit of volunteerism, leadership and sensitivity towards community requirements, keeping language, religion and heritage flourishing in future generations. From different walks of life, how people from Africa have achieved that.

**D: How we can CARE & SHARE our information with the rest of the world?**

**How many places in the world they are present as organizations?**

**Pilgrimage: How during the travel to all these countries, pilgrimage can be done.**

**HELP: In the case of the emergency, how our community can come to the rescue.**

**Education: Learn, Care & Share the experience**

This is an attempt to find out, how and where Jainism kept alive outside India (JAIN DIASPORA) On behalf of the Jain digest team, **Micchammi Dukkadam**, if we have missed some information. If we have misinterpreted anything please accept our apology. We appreciate efforts of all organizations, who sent the information and helped us to make this successful. Hope, this issue can be of help with the information about many Jain centers, their dedication and efforts for the survival of Jain community over the past many years.

**Dr. K. Deepika Dalal (Co Editor) Jain Digest**

# JAINA Student Internship Program (JASI)



## Recent JASI Interns:



Palak Bhandari, 13 Intern  
Bryn Mawr College  
Vienna, VA



Nirali Vagadia, 13 Intern  
Wake Forest University  
Forsboro, MA



Saurin Shah, 13 Intern  
McGill University  
Bloomington, IL



Parth Savla, Coordinator  
San Francisco, CA

## APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN for the 2015 JASI PROGRAM!

### What is it?

The JAINA Student Internship (JASI) is a full-time, intensive internship offering U.S. undergraduate and graduate students a chance to work with a service-based community organization in a start-up environment.

JASI interns receive hands-on experience that provides professional and personal growth in the areas of non-profit project management, IT support and social networking/community building, as well as rewarding opportunities to support the global Jain community.

### Who can apply & materials do I need to submit?

In order to be considered for the JASI Internship, applicants must electronically submit:

- A 500-750 word essay explaining how their interests could help strengthen the Jain community and/or an awareness of Jain principles while addressing why they are suitable
- Unofficial electronic copies of their Undergraduate and Graduate degree transcripts
- One letter of recommendation from a relevant faculty member, community leader or previous employer

### This sounds awesome, where do I apply?

[www.jaina.org/internshipapplication](http://www.jaina.org/internshipapplication)

For full details, go to: [www.jaina.org/internship](http://www.jaina.org/internship)

### What are some of the benefits of interning?

The current JASI interns obtained several benefits including:

- IT Support
- Copy Writing & Editing
- Website Development
- Enhanced Communication Skills
- Knowledge of the inner workings of a non-profit organization
- Increased confidence
- Enhanced expression of their own abilities

### Application Timetable

Student Internship Process	
Application Opens	March 25
Application Deadline (including all supporting documents)	April 24, 11:59pm EST
Selection Process — Student contacted for interviews	May 4 - 10
Applicants Notified by JAINA office (Selectees notified via e-mail and in writing)	May 8
Internship Start Date	June 1
Internship Ends	August 24





## Become a Jain Leadership Fellow!

### EXPAND

Build , grow, maintain and update a database of Jains in your region.

### ENGAGE

Deepen your understanding of Jain values and how they relate to the issues of social justice, economic disparity & animal rights working with both Jain & non-Jain organizations.

### ENERGIZE

Meet with local Jain leaders and community contacts on a regular basis and disseminate information about JAINA/LRP and Jain Center projects to the Jain centers membership

### EVOLVE

Work with a dedicated, well-connected LRP team as well as JAINA Executive and local leaders

### EDUCATE

Hold workshops, interactive sessions and public speaking engagements about JAINA/LRP projects and initiatives



**This is a PAID FELLOWSHIP OF \$1500**

*4 - 6 HRS/ WK | 12 MONTHS | VERY COMPETITIVE |  
REGULARLY WORK WITH HIGH LEVEL LEADERS | 5 FELLOWS SO FAR*

Go to [jaina.org/fellowsprogram](http://jaina.org/fellowsprogram) for all details. For questions email [fellowsprogram@jaina.org](mailto:fellowsprogram@jaina.org).



## 2015 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

# EMPOWERING NEXTGEN LEADERS OF THE JAIN COMMUNITY

JAINA's Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee and the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) hosted this conference from Jan 23rd – 25th in Milpitas, California. The conference brought together leaders from the North American Jain community, Jain Centers, and influential educators and business people over two and a half days, with nearly 100 people attending. Together with community leaders, noted guest speakers provided guidance and direction in empowering the NextGen Jain leaders.



The objectives of this conference were to:

- Share with the Jain community LRP's Vision 2020 objectives to promote a Jain Way of Life thereby making an impact on a local, national and global level.
- Establish collaboration between local and national communities to promote Vision 2020.
- Promote youth and young adult involvement in local communities and on a national level by empowering them in leadership roles.
- Highlight and prioritize opportunities and projects to meet the current and future challenges in promoting JAINA's Visions 2020 and Jain Way of Life.

*"The conference provided a platform for networking, connecting, and creating a legacy that will be passed on to the next generation."*

To learn more about the Long Range Planning Committee, visit [www.lrp.jaina.org](http://www.lrp.jaina.org)  
Support these and other LRP projects, by donating at [www.jaina.org/LRPdonate](http://www.jaina.org/LRPdonate)





The Long Range Planning Committee has hosted two such conferences (Miami, FL and Milpitas, CA) in the past year with great successes. At each conference, leaders and learners collaborated in an effort to share Jain values, networking opportunities, and new initiatives for our community while adding to JAINA's portfolio of projects.



We would like to take this opportunity to **thank you** for your participation, volunteerism, and help in making this conference successful. YOU are the force behind its success! Thank you!

JAINA 2015 Leadership Steering Committee  
Long Range Planning Committee

To learn more about the Long Range Planning Committee, visit [www.lrp.jaina.org](http://www.lrp.jaina.org)  
Support these and other LRP projects, by donating at [www.jaina.org/LRPdonate](http://www.jaina.org/LRPdonate)



## JAINA UPLIFTMENT PROJECT

*Give HOPE, Give LIFE*

*By GIVING the gift of EDUCATION to our CHILDREN  
and OPPORTUNITY to our FAMILIES*



JAINA UPLIFTMENT Project Sponsors in partnership with Indian NGO's has sponsored 127 Jain children & adults with education & skill enhancement vocational training. These students from economically deprived families are from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Twenty one (21) adults graduated from skill enhancement vocational training in 2014. They are all fully employed earning Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 12,000 per month, prior to their training they were either unemployed or were earning less than Rs. 4000 per month. In a recent gathering, in Ahmedabad, of scholarship recipient in Feb 2015, each expressed their thanks and gratitude to our sponsors.

It is with extreme gratitude for scholarship to finish my "CA" on time. Your generosity has inspired me to help other students in future and give back to community.

*- Abhishek Kothari*

We are grateful to our sponsors and volunteers for their generous support. Together with your help, we hope to provide support to 150 students in 2015.

Please join our quest to eradicate poverty among Jains by educating one child – one family at a time by donating \$25 to \$60 per month. We have many student profiles in need of sponsorships and or student Loans.

I cannot thank JAINA enough. We are all humbled to see what a difference the organization makes for families, how it helps us to tackle the daily issues that often seem a dead-end for us.

*- Ritaben Shah*

*For more information visit [www.jainauplift.org](http://www.jainauplift.org) or  
please contact: [info@jainauplift.org](mailto:info@jainauplift.org) / phone: 240-277-3039  
Dr. Sushil Jain, Chairman, JAINA Upliftment Program (Past President, JAINA)*

JAINA UPLIFTMENT COMMITTEE





# Identity and Role of Shravak in Jin-Shasan

Samani Shukla Pragya  
Adjunct Professor, FIU

Jainism abides by the path propounded by *Tirthankars* (The Omniscient), the architects of the fourfold congregation comprising *Sadhu*, *Sadhvi*, *Shravak*, and *Shravika*. In the present era, we follow the teachings of *Tirthankar Bhagwan Mahavir*.

## Origin of *Shravak Dharma*

During the period of his *Sadhana*, *Bhagwan Mahavir* endured innumerable hardships that placed his life in peril. One night a demon named *Shulpani*, disguised as countless wild animals, persecuted *Mahavir*. However, *Shulpani* failed in his malicious attempts and could not perturb *Mahavir* from his deep meditation. *Mahavir's* equanimity and his power of forgiveness were victorious over the evil rage of the demon.



During *Shulpani's* attacks, *Bhagwan Mahavir* succumbed to a short slumber and had ten dreams. A dream reader *Utpal* was able to explain the meanings of nine of the dreams but could not describe what the fourth dream - two garlands - meant. To quench his curiosity, *Mahavir* explained, that he will propound two categories of religion –

**Religion for *Sadhu/Sadhvi* (Ascetics) - *Angaar Dharma*, and  
Religion for *Shravak/Shravika* (Householders) - *Aagaar Dharma*.**

He elucidated that the amalgamation of **True Faith, True Knowledge, and True Conduct** is the path to liberation. Individually incomplete, collectively these three lead to liberation. For the nourishment of this trinity he propounded the two categories of religion mentioned above. A code of conduct was set for both. These are known as *Mahavrat* (great vows) for ascetics and *Anuvrat* (small vows) for householders. The rules prescribed for householders are more relaxed than those prescribed for ascetics.

*Bhagwan* conveyed that those who renounce the material world with all its bondages of relationships, and adopt monkhood or nun hood, while observing the five *Mahavrat* or great vows, and practicing equanimity and detachment, are capable of reaching the ultimate goal - liberation. This rigorous path is called *Angaar Dharma*. However, not everyone is strong enough to be able to renounce the world and practice asceticism. So a question might arise - **Isn't liberation possible for a householder?**



To address this, the second category of religion *Aagaar Dharma* was brought into main stream. Since *Shravaks* or householders have not renounced their homes or professions, and are therefore unable to give up violence completely, they, according to their individual capacities, can practice *Anuvrat* or small vows that are more relaxed than the great vows. Some examples of small vows are abstinence from gross violence, falsehood, stealing, sexuality, and possessiveness. **These vows are not only intelligible but are simple, logical and practical for all people.** Implementing these vows in our everyday life, we can move forward on the path of spirituality, self-purification, and liberation.

### Synonyms of *Shravak*

A *Shravak* is someone who listens to the preaching of ascetics, accepts vows, and practices spiritual austerities. He sits near the monks and nuns and learns about religion. Therefore, he is also called *Shramanopasak or Upasak*. When he observes *Anuvrat* or small vows, or accepts any single vow, he is called an *Anuvrati*. Since he lives in a house with his worldly possessions, he is also called *Saagaari, Aagaari, Grihasth, or Grihi*. From the point of view of *Gunasthaan* (stages of purification) he is understood to be in the fifth stage - *Pancham Gunasthani-Deshvirati*.

### Identity of *Shravak*

In his last book *Shravak Sambodh*, *Acharya Tulsi* talks about the foundation of *Shravak* identity. According to the book, the spiritual journey of a *Shravak* begins with True Faith. A *Shravak* believes in the eternal existence of soul. He trusts that karmic bondage causes the cycle of birth and death, believes in pre and re-birth concepts. He has deep faith in the Omniscient (*Tirthankars*) and their preaching, and follows the path of the Right Guru. He observes non-violence physically, mentally, and verbally, and follows truth, self-restraint, and austerities to purify his soul. He sets *moksha* as his supreme goal and to achieve it, he practices *Anuvrat* and auxiliary vows in his day to day life.



### Responsibility of *Shravak*

The primary responsibility of a *Shravak* is to maintain spiritual values in order to uplift the self and to contribute towards creating a positive and healthy society.

**prospers in**  
or seeker of



**"When life follows a proper direction, it all directions."** One can become a real *Shravak* the self, by practicing vows in everyday life, by

imparting spiritual knowledge to others, by rendering services to ascetics, by working to glorify the congregation, by inspiring others to follow spirituality, by taking care of the needy in the community, by appreciating works rendered for social and religious welfare, by respecting





others' viewpoints without prejudice, and by implementing the principles of *Ahimsa*, *Anekant*, and *Aparigrah* in day to day life.

Thousands of scientists are pre-occupied in the research and invention of destructive weapons. Soldiers are undergoing training for staging wars. Brain washed suicide bombers are ready to ignite terrorism all around the globe. Unfortunate natural calamities are adding to the climate of panic and uncertainty in every walk of life. All this is the dreadful fruition of man's false ego, anger, hatred, endless desires, selfishness, and the desire for sensual pleasures.

Under such circumstances, *Ahimsa* motivates us to overcome the unscrupulous. ***Ahimsa is to Himsa, just as light is to darkness, nectar is to poison, and life is to death.*** If all individuals practiced eradication of ill wishes, we would be living in a **Utopian** society. *Ahimsa* is the key foundation to build a healthy society where all lives have equal rights to live peacefully. *Ahimsa* is a focal point in the development of a human **being**.

The importance of Non-Violence has existed in the past and present, and will continue to exist in the future. It is a global solution to global problems. The thought-provoking message of ***Bhagwan Mahavir: "Savve Jiva vi icchanti jivium na marijjhium"*** says that every creature wants to live; nobody wants to die. It awakens the consciousness of personal security and environmental protection. Intentional protection of water beings, air beings, fire beings, earth beings, and plant beings is actually an act of protecting our own selves. This is because a single hole anywhere in the globe can affect us in another corner and make us feel insecure. The above goal can be achieved by training our brain to observe the following guidelines:

- Minimizing our material and non-material wants and desires.
- Setting limits to our needs.
- Quitting the 'use and discard' culture.
- Stopping the process of deforestation.
- Being conscious of the usage of water, fire, and electricity at all times.
- Strengthening our will power for controlling our senses, emotions, character, and food habits.

Consumption of meats, eggs, and alcohol must be strictly avoided. Consumption of these animal proteins leads to health disorders of the kidney, liver, heart, and the digestive tract, and becomes a cause of cancer and other grave illnesses. Thus, it is important to awaken the spirit of non-violent consciousness.

**Behavioral Training** provides ample opportunities for *Ahimsa* to work. It constitutes the development of deep compassion, love, friendliness, a spirit of brotherhood and service to all. It prepares the mind for separation from harming, killing, deceiving, cheating or any other negative activity. It can reform human relations by the application of small but powerful formulas such as, 'let go', 'no problem', 'whatever happens, happens for the good', 'I will be careful next time'. These slogans promote peace and harmony in family, social and



professional relationships. Self-restraint, austerity, meditation, penance, self-study, fasting, practice of equanimity, friendliness, and forgiveness are the primary keys to a step forward towards enlightenment.

*Ahimsa Samvay* has been established to encompass research, training, and experiment in the field of non-violence. To promote this, **Acharya Mahashramanji** has been actively dispersing the message of *Ahimsa*, Peace and Morality through the 'Ahimsa March'.



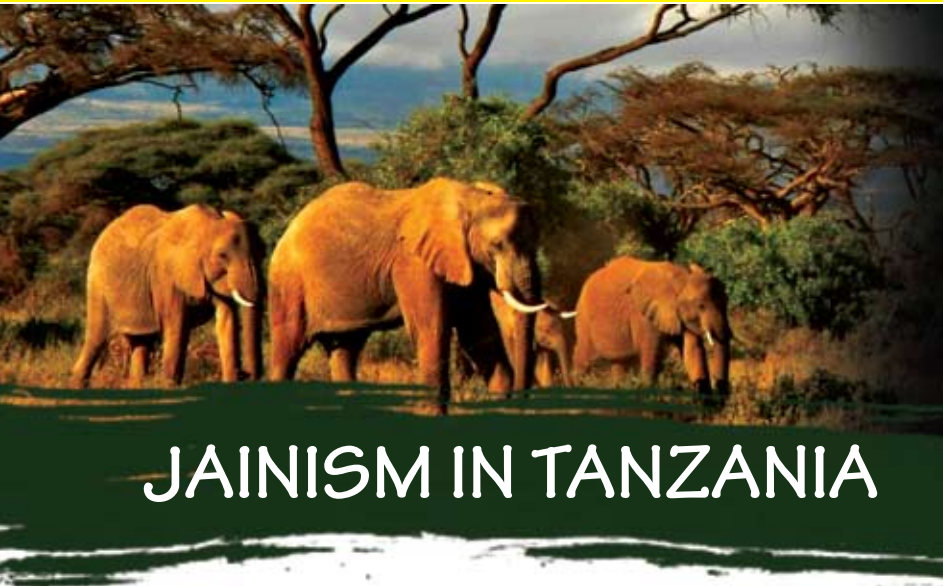
### GRACE the Human Life with Humane Heart

With our true endeavors, we will surely make our human life gracious and worthy. Hence it is again a right time to try to be a true *Shravak* and practice the following GRACE formula in everyday interaction. Allow it to help you develop higher awareness. Get charged with it to embark on your own spiritual journey.

- Gratitude** Attitude of Gratitude surely nurtures positive energy and lifts us from stressful situations. It allows us to see the bigger picture of life and wipes our sorrow away.
- Respect** Respect for self and others, and for all living beings, keeps us away from non-humane actions; be it physical, mental or verbal.
- Amity** Being friendly with everyone helps in eradicating the feeling of enmity. It constructs strong bridges in relationships. It opens the door to achieve the heights of success.
- Compassion** Cultivating Compassion aids us in being happy and makes others around us happier. It encourages us to practice empathy and inspires us to contribute towards eradicating burning social problems.
- Enthusiasm** Enthusiasm keeps our energy ignited, and forces us to chase our goal with the same passion as we began with. It is an antidote to depression since it doesn't allow our energy levels to go down.

Adopting the GRACE formula can help us co-create with others, a vibrant, harmonious, and decently grounded environment that is consistent with our values and ethics. Since time moves fast, the moment is right now when we need to realize the importance of this Human life. If we are conscious of every single moment of our lives, for the rest of our lives, we will certainly pave the path towards spiritual heights.





# JAINISM IN TANZANIA



## INTRODUCTION

East Africa comprises Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, a land of incredible beauty and some of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the world, including lions, giraffes, elephants, zebra and multitudes of hoofed species. Tanzania, the largest state, just south of the equator, holds awesome contrasts, ranging from the cool, semi-arid highlands around Africa’s highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, and the paradisiacal Tropicana of the coast.

## THE ANCIENT DERASAR – ZANZIBAR

For many centuries, Zanzibar was a gateway of Africa. The people from India started to migrate to Africa in 18th Century and Kutchi Jain traders came to African Continent and settled in Zanzibar. Outside of India, most likely first Jain Derasar was built in Zanzibar in 1905, Island of Spices and Sweet Water. They built Jain Derasar with 3 pujniya (Pran Pratishtha) idols, Shree Pashwanath, Shree Shantinath and Shree Mahavir swami. In 1963, there were 450 Deravasi and 400 sthanakvasi Jain families living in Zanzibar.

In 1964, during the revolution in Zanzibar, all the 3 idols were sent to Nairobi Visa Oshwal Derasar (at present these idols are there).In the year

2009 Jain Sangh of Dares Salaam renovated the Zanzibar Kutchi Jain Derasar Building. Three new idols of same tirthankars Shree Parshwanath, Shree Mahavir Swami and Shree Shantinath were placed and are in the same place. It is situated on the third floor of the temple building in the Stone town area.

There are two Hindu temples located in the same building, the Shiv Shakti temple and the Arya Samaj. Mr. Umedlal Hematlal Mehta has been the Chairman of the Hindu Union for the last thirty years. Mr. Mehta’s family is the only one or two family lives there and managing all three temples. Jain Sangh of Dar Es Salaam is taking care of up-keep of this Ancient Derasar. Every year during Easter Holidays, Sangh Members from Dar s Salaam go to Zanzibar for Dhaja/Poojan Prtistha mahotsav.





# THE HISTORY OF Dar es Salam

**T**he Jains started to migrate into Eastern Africa in the later part of 18th century mainly to Uganda and Zanzibar and later to Tanganyika. Around 1885 some people started to arrive in Dar es Salaam. By 1930 the population of Jains reached 100 and on 15th August, 1930 the Jain Sangh was officially established.

As the influx of Jains continued the desire for more and more religious activities became stronger culminating in renting a building in 1940 to carry out the religious and social activities. Initially a portrait of Lord Mahavir was placed in the building.



By the year 1950 the population of Jains reached 500 mark and the stalwarts of the Sangh thought of having their own Mahajanwadi, housing Derasar, Upashraya, Social Hall, Pathshala, etc., so that all Sangh's activities could take



place at one place. Having this idea in mind the Sangh purchased a building in 1950 along Jamhuri Street which was later disposed off.

In 1957, two plots were acquired along Menden Street for building a Derasar, Upashraya and Social halls. The foundation stone of the Sangh Building was laid by Shah Fulchand Kalyanji Bhanji on 13th October, 1957. The Jains of entire Eastern Africa including Zanzibar contributed generously towards this historical project. The prominent elders of the time worked tirelessly to make this historic project materialize and in 1958 their dream came true. On 3rd August, 1958 the present Jain Sangh Building was officially opened by Late Shree Ramji Kara Shah.

The auspicious Pran Pratistha Mahotsav was conducted on 27th August, 1958 and idols of Shitalnath Bhagawan, Ajitnath Bhagawan and Sambhavnath Bhagawan were installed in the Derasar.



# Dar es Salam Temple

With time as the community grew, it became inevitable to expand the community building. It was decided to build a large social hall, kitchen and a guest house above the kitchen on the adjacent plot of the existing building. The project was completed in 1970 and the opening ceremony was performed by members of Shree Sanghvi family.

Jains of Dar es Salaam have no sect difference and right from its inception all the Jains of different sects like Deravasi, Sthanakvasi, Digambar, Visa Oswal, Kutchi, Dasa and Visa all are strongly united without any distinction under the banner of Shree Jain Sangh and perform their prayers and participate in all religious and social functions firmly united under one roof. This is an unique example of unity. This is an example worth emulating by all the Jains elsewhere in the world. Currently, there are about 160 Families of Jains in Dares Salaam.

It is only for the sake of convenience that Deravasi and Sthanakvasi tithies are used every alternate year to celebrate all the religious festivals.

In 2005, Shree Jain Sangh celebrated Diamond Jubilee (75 years) of its inception, and this auspicious occasion was celebrated with various functions like, Bhakti program, Sound and light show depicting the life of Shree Bhagawan Mahavir, Stavan Sandhya, and Shobha Yatra.

Pathshala classes are conducted on every Saturday. Also Gujarati language is taught to the children. Religious festivals celebrated by Shree Jain Sangh are: Ghana Pancham, Nav-Pad Aayanbil Oli, Shri Mahavir Janma Kalyanak

Divas, Paryushan Maha-Parva, Diwali, Kartaki Poonam etc. as well as various sports, cultural, educational programs, charity programs for the needy are organized during the year which brings in Sangh members for a get together to renew their contacts. Recently, there is an influx of more Jain family's migration in Dares Salam.

Arusha is located in Northern Tanzania, below the Mount Meru, near Arusha national park. They have Swaminarayan and Jain temples. There are 40-50 Jain families. Jain temple is located on 1.2 acre land. It has temple and hall. They celebrate Jain festivals together. Moshi has 15-20 Jain families.

Mt. Meru, is a mythological holy mountain for the Jains, Hindus and Buddhists.

In Arusha, Mt. Meru is an active volcano, which had last eruption in 1910. It is 14,977 feet high and is only 70 km. from Mt. Kilimanjaro.

*Compiled with the help of the Mr. Ketan Bhupatrai Shah – Hon. Gen. secretary Shree Jain sangh of DaresSalam .*



**Jainism in Arusha**

Mahavir Swami Temple Arusha



**Mount Meru**



# Jains in Nairobi



## Introduction

This is an inspiring success story of the Jains from Nairobi. They went to the dark continent of Africa over a century ago. They became successful through their hard work. To preserve the traditions, religion and language they built appropriate facilities.

## The Shining history of East African Oshwal

The first Oshwal arrived to the Kenyan coast in 1899. By 1905, there were 100 Jains and by 1920 number grew to 800. First Oshwal meeting in Africa was held in 1915. A dharmshala fund was set up to provide assistance for the Oshwals arriving from India. The shining history of religious progress started with the building of a “Ghar Derasar” in 1957. Three beautiful marble pratimajis were placed at the Derasar. Mul-nayak Shree Mahavirswami, Shree Aadeshvar nath on Right and Shree Shantinath on the Left



In 1968, the community decided to build a ‘Shikharbandhi’ derasar. In 1970, the Committee started working on this project. During that time, three Pratimajis were sent from Zanzibar, Shree Parshvanath, Shree Shantinath and Shree Mahavir swami. These were placed in Derasar in Mahajanvadi on Limuru Road. On 4th July 1971,

when Gurudev Chitrabhanuji was visiting Nairobi, he gave plenty of encouragement and inspiration to the community with the project of building a derasar. Lots of assistance was received from the Anandaji Kalyanaji trust, India. The stone work is done from the pink sand stone of Baleshar, white sangamarmar stone and Porbandar stone.

The Pratistha ceremony of Munisuvrat Jinalaya –shikharbandhi derasar held in February , 1984 at Shree Visa Oshwal Mahajan vadi premises on Limuru road. This temple has nine idols. The Mul nayak is Shree Munisuvrat Swami, on the side, Shree Ajitnath, Shree Shreyansanath, Shree Parshvanath, Shree Shantinath, Shree Anantnath, Shree Aranath and Shree Mahavir swami. The whole area is built of priceless gems and gold.

The inner walls of the temple hold pictures of pilgrim sites and different dev, devis worshipped by Jains. After the development of the derasar, the community also built the Upashraya to have many activities like Puja, Jaap, Satsang, and Bhakti Bhavana, Pathshala for children and religious classes for the adults. At Paryushan, 900-1,000 people visit the derasar.



Many tourists and various students from other schools also visit.

### Digambar Jain Chaityalay

Many swadhyay halls and temples are still being built in India to propagate Gurudev Kanajiswami's teachings of Jainism. In the early 1950s, 'mumukshus' in Nairobi formed a Mandal and later bought a property for a swadhyay hall and temple but the pinnacle was reached when a new Shikharbandhi temple was consecrated and a panchkalyanak pratishtha mahotsava was held in the presence of Gurudevshree in 1980.



### Oshwal Center – Monument to be proud of!!!

It is a huge, yet so tranquil, place situated just a few minutes away from the very busy Westland's Commercial District of Nairobi. The center was conceived way back in the 1980s and physical space for the Centre was identified in 1984. Planning and construction of Oshwal Centre began in the year 1995 and it took seven years to complete the project. It is the spirit of self-less dedication and philanthropy that is manifested so vividly in the building of Oshwal Center. The aesthetics reflects a Jain background. It is situated on 8 acres of grounds including a walking/jogging track, sports field, and tennis and basketball courts. It has a modern library.



On any given day, the Centre can accommodate up to 4000 people easily if all facilities are made available. This makes it one of the largest such facilities right in the heart of Nairobi. The Oshwal center auditorium is Nairobi's most modern, comfortable and well equipped facility for performances. The Auditorium has 630 seats in two tiers, a full acoustic chamber.

**Oshwal Library:** It is Located on the 2nd floor of the Oshwal Centre, at a serene atmosphere for reading and studying. It has a collection of over 28,000 books. The Library is fully computerized, making it to locate the books in the Library.

**Education Development:** This program begins with the nursery, followed by primary school, junior and senior high school. It ends with the Oshwal collage. The blossoming Entrepreneurs of Oshwal academy: as a part of special students' individualized educational program, the inclusive education of Oshwal Young Jains of Nairobi (YJN) started in 1996. This primary integrates practical skill in entrepreneurship/Business studies courses. In regard to this department has established a vocational training program that aims towards developing children's

skills in beadwork, pottery, cookery, office management etc.



### Mahila Mandal

The Oshwal Mahila Mandal is a 62 years old ladies' institution that binds Oshwal families by the noble work carried out by the women. It is like a mighty oak tree that grew from a tiny acorn; its inauguration was done on 15th September 1946 under the blessings of Shri Hemachandra Maharaj. The initial aim was to educate the Oshwal ladies with reading and writing skills as most of the women then were illiterate. Our few educated ladies took the initiative of teaching the reading and writing of Gujarati and English.

Mahila Mandal presented huge Rangoli depicting Jain paintings was presented at Toronto Museum and at 2007 JAINA convention. Oshwal Mahila Mandal carries out tremendous amount of social and charity work especially for local people.

### Physical Activities: Facilities at the Oshwal Sports Complex

The sports complex has a 25 meter by 12 meter swimming pool plus a small baby / paddling pool next to it. Whilst the pools are over 32 years old, they have been well



maintained and are used for numerous swimming galas. 2 Squash courts, 5 Tennis courts, Volleyball court, snooker, Pool table, Table tennis, Badminton Gym, sauna, Steam and Bridge and other card games tables.

### Oshwal Medical Relief Scheme:

OMRS: More than 1700 people participate. The object of the OMRS is to assist the Contributors to meet and defray costs of treatment received in hospitals in Kenya and in hospitals in India and other overseas countries.

### Non Oshwal Institutions

**SSJS (Sthanakvasi Jain Sangh)** - It was established in 1927. In 1995-Jain Bhavan was built with a large library, sports facilities and Banquet hall for 1000 persons. They work closely with SCVP and OERF for the young and adult religious education.

**Shree Chandana Vidya Perth (SCVP)** is a unique Jain educational program started by Pujya Sadhvi Shilapiji with the blessings of Acharya Shree Chandanaji in 1997 in Nairobi. The children would join us at the age of 6 years and through a study program of 9 years, they would graduate at 15 years. They are taught Jain religion and ethics. A very competent team of 30 volunteer teachers use the most modern teaching techniques to 250 students.

The SCVP also caters to adults. Adult classes were started in 1998 and to date about 700 adults have passed through three year study program set out for them by Pujya Sadhvi Shree Shilapiji. The classes are conducted in English as well as in Gujarati. They have also initiated a two year as well as a 10 week study courses for those who cannot commit for longer periods.

In January 2015, YJA, SCVP, and SSJS (sthanakvasi Jain sangh) celebrated 79th birthday of Acharya Chandanaji by helping 63 cerebral palsy students. Young Jains of Nairobi provided hot nutritional meals, transport and therapy to the cerebral palsy children.

**Senior Citizen Social Group:** The Welfare for Adults committee was formed to look after the

welfare of our senior committee members and to organize events for them plus provide facilities where they can interact with each other, make friends and enjoy their twilight years. It is attended by 50 seniors in the morning and 25 in the afternoon. Yoga and other activities are conducted.

The Committee is currently in the process of converting the Old Library (the one situated at the Mahajanvadi) into a Senior Citizens Lounge. The Lounge will include a television and DVD player; have a small library & reading section, tea facilities and some games for the seniors.

### Oshwal Youth League

It has informally existed under various names since 1928. Its roots lie in the Visa Oshwal Community, Nairobi & Oshwal Education & Relief Board. It is officially registered as a Society in 1954. From 2000 onwards the average age of most are below 30 years of age.

### Helping the country

The Jain Oshwal Community Center in Nairobi, Kenya, was the site of volunteer relief efforts after the Westgate Mall attacks. The Jain community, only 12,000 members in Nairobi opened their doors at the onset of the attack, claimed 67 dead, many injured. About 400 volunteers worked tirelessly and served 15,000 meals for three days



"A visitor hugs a relative during the mourning ceremony for Mitul Shah in Nairobi, Kenya, on September 26. Indian-Kenyan Mitul Shah, 38, protected children with his body and was shot dead by militants in the Westgate Shopping Mall, Nairobi attack on September 21 2013



Compiled By Dr. K.Deepika Dalal, Kirtida Malde and Rupal Shah





KENYA

# Jain Tirths in Kenya

**Mombasa** is the second largest city in Kenya on the east coast, with a population of about 1.2 million. Mombasa has a large port and an international airport, In the past it was a trading centre.

In 1963, the first shikharbandhi Jain temple in Mombasa was built. The temple was built right at the center of town, on a two acre plot - a very bold gesture of cultural pride. It is a beautiful white marble building situated in Mombasa's old town between Digo Road and Langoni Road. *Mulnayak* is Shree Chintamani Parshvanath.

The temple is adorned by a door of solid silver and many sculptures. Temple is in use for daily worship, cultural education, social and business networking, and the celebration of festivals. This is run by Shree Shwetamber deravasi Jain sangh, Mombasa.

## Kisumu Jain Sangh:

Kisumu is a commercial center on the shores of Lake Victoria. Visa Oshwal community of Kisumu had organized a very special grand Pratistha mahotsav of their new Jain temple in 2003. The temple has been built with generous donations and untiring efforts of Shree Narashi Punja Shah family who migrated to Kenya at the age of 11 years. He is a dedicated Shravak and longtime resident of Kisumu. This is a Mahavir Jinalay for almost 300 Jain devotees.

## Visa Oshwal Community, Nakuru

Nakuru is the capital of Nakuru County in Kenya and former capital of the Rift Valley Province. Nakuru lies about 1,850 m above sea level. Lake Nakuru is famous for millions of flamingos who get attracted to the shore of Lake Nakuru. Thousands of Jains may have visited wild life sanctuary, but they are unaware of beautiful Munisuvrat

Bhagawan derasar which is only one kilometer away. The first Oshwal came there in 1942. Within a Mahajanvadi, a Ghar Derasar was built in 1976. At present; there are about 550 jains living in Nakuru. All the Jains take part in all the religious activities including Jain Pathashala, Paryushan.



For the past 20 years their dream was to convert the existing Ghar derasar to the shikharbandhi Derasar. During 2010 Paryushan, Guruji Narendrabhai Koradia and Panditji Gaurangbhai Shah from Nakoda Gyanshala were invited and they initiated a lot of interest regarding Jainism among the Jain devotee members. They are planning to build a new shikharbandhi derasar with the Mulnayak Munisuvrat Swami, Shree Aadinath, Simandhar swami, Shree Neminath, and Nakoda Bhairavji. This will be a holy occasion where all Jains come together and pray peacefully.

*Visa Oshwal Mahajanvadi, Lake Nakuru, Tel. 051-2211050/0772561309 Email: chuchi@africaonline.co.ke Pujari Dalapatbhai Mobile 0721315145*

## Visa Oshwal Community in Thika

*Recently, they celebrated 100 years of arrival of Visa Oshwal community in Kenya.*



At the beginning of the last century, 1910-1925, young Oswals started migrating to Thika, Kenya from India. By 1935, population had grown to 280. They worked tirelessly, to get established. In 1934, community formed Shree Visa Oswal Gnati Mandal. Many worked in small retail businesses. The first factory "Kenya Tanning Extract Co. Ltd." was started by Meghji Petharaj and others. Jain Pathashala started in 1942. First Ghar Derasar was opened in 1952, with 3 idols, mulnayak Mahavir Swami, Shree Dharmanath and Shree Neminath.



In 1963, Kenya became Independent. Between 1990 -1998 community worked to make shikhabandhi derasar. With the help of the Jinchandraji Maharaj, Pratistha Mahotsav took place on 3rd Feb. 1998. Shree Parshvanath and Aadinath Bhagawan Idols were added. In 1998, Chandan Vidyapith Pathashala and adult classes began and continued. Upashraya, hall building opened. For last few years Tapovan scholars have been invited to share their knowledge of Jainism. Almost 300 Jain families are in Thika.

*Visa Oswal community, Phone 254 773498989, info@thicaoswal.org*

***Compiled with the help of Hitesh M. Dhanani***





# JAINS IN UGANDA (1860- 1972)

The Indian immigration to Uganda started around 1860s and the first 'Jain Ghar Derasar' was started in 1914 in Kampala. Among the pioneers who started 'Ghar Derasar' were Mithalal Devchand Mehta, Jesang Kalidas Mehta, Amulakh Dahyabhai Mehta and Mulchand Popat Shah around circa 1914. This was the first generation of Jains who sowed the seeds of Jain Dharma in Uganda and predominantly in the capital Kampala. This continued for about 20 years until the second generation of Jains became leaders and the increasing number of Jains felt the need for a proper place of worship. The first Jain Pathshala was started in 1942 with the help of three teachers who took the lead, they were Babulal Ratanshi Mehta, Maganlal Sanghvi and Ramniklal Ratanshi Mehta.

Around 1945-46, a 2400 sq.ft hall was acquired in Godinho Building in centre of Kampala. This was used for Pathshala and other Jain activities. In 1946, Shree Sthanakvasi Jain Sangh was established by group of trustees which included Virchand Mithalal Mehta, Hematbhai Amulakh Mehta, Jesang Popat Mehta and Harilal Harakchand Vora. A place of worship was acquired on Sne Bin Amir Street near Sanatan Mandir.

As the years progressed, the Jain Pathshala became more active. Paryushan was regularly celebrated with great devotion and included evening pratikramans, numerous Tapascharya and children's programs. Aymbil Ori were conducted twice a year and women participated in increasing numbers.

The 1972 exodus of all Indians put a damper on Jain presence in Kampala. The military government confiscated the Jain Upashraya and converted it into a school. There were no Jains left in Uganda after 1972.

Around mid 80s, the change in Uganda government resulted in influx of new Jains from India. They worked hard towards a new place of worship and in 2012-2013, a new Shikarbandhi Derasar was opened in Kololo suburb of Kampala.

Compiled by Dr. Mahendra G. Mehta, Toronto, Canada

*I have put the following account by talking to small clutch of surviving Jains from Kampala and some of the surrounding small towns in Uganda. They are in their nineties with fading memories.*

## Jain Samaj – Uganda ( 1990 onwards)



**SHREE JAIN SAMAJ – Uganda** , In 1994, a small group of Jains came together and embedded with a view to start some social and religious activities, especially during Paryushan. These few Jains who came together were from all the three sects of Jainism (deravasis/ Sthanakvasis and Digambers), they started celebrating Paryushan/Das-Lakshna in all the three ways, celebrating a total of 18 days of Mahaparva.

In order to maintain Jain religion, 14 years ago a Gruh Mandir was established. In 2000 two Pratimajis were brought from India (Mahavir swami and Shree shantinath) and one came from Eldorate, Kenya (Shree Adeshwar dada) . All these pratimajis are Anjan Shalaka Pratimas. Members of Jain Samaj perform daily pujas, weekly bhavanas and other religious activities. They continued old tradition of celebrating Paryushan in all the three different ways to maintain unity among sects. They organize Cultural Shows to raise funds for causes like School at MUKONO, food and clothes distribution to Sanyo baby house and other orphanages, medicines, television and clothes to MULAGO Hospital .

In a short span of time with few members, today Jain Samaj Uganda, has built a New Jain Complex in Naguru Hill ,Kampala, Uganda, which they are pleased to declare as the first of its kind in Africa. This one of its kind monument will consist of a Shwetamber Derasar, Sthanakvasi Upasharay, Digamber Mandir, and Aaradhana Bhuvan together with a community hall, making it a very unique, monumental and wondrous structure here in Kampala.

by Devang B. Shah E- mail id - devang\_b\_shah@yahoo.com



# JAINS IN SUDAN

First Indian who arrived in Sudan was over 140 years ago was Gujarati. Soon after many started arriving for trade and started to settle in port-city called Sawakin and slowly started moving to other cities. Hundred years go Indian community formed a organization named Gujarat Mahajan. Members were either Jains or Vaishnavs.

Seventy years ago a temporary derasar for a week of Paryushan was created by Shree Shantilal Sheth at his residence. It continued for many years. Paryushan was celebrated by Jains and Vaishnavs together. Jain shala was established. Many volunteers, mainly women taught Jainism to children and youth. Our Jain Shala has recently taken over by a very active young Didis to oversee teaching and do charity work. This group is formed under the guidance of Arham yuva group. This both above groups are formed under agna of Param Pujya Namra muni.



At present Omdurman has a Indian community of around 190 Jain families of which 50 families are deravasi and rest are sthanakvasi. Except Samvatsari pratikaman all other religious ceremonies and festivals are celebrated as one community.



At Jain temple there is a small pratimajis' of Mahavir Swami which is darshaniya pratimaji of fine marble. Recently the first anjan Shalaka pratimaji of Shree Parshwnath Bhagawan was brought from junagadh Girnarji taleti by Bharatkumar V. Tolia. Jain Jagruti Center-Sudan is formed in late 2000. Jain scholars and vidhikars are invited every year in Paryushan, for special Jain pujans, Adhar abhishek , Sidhchakra puja etc.

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*Compiled by Nipul and Bharat Tolia (Sudan)*



# JAINS IN UAE (DUBAI) and KUWAIT

## Introduction

In 1999, the population of Indian migrants in the UAE was 170,000, by 1975 it grew to 750,000 and by 2009 it reached nearly 2 million. Indians constitute 30% of the total UAE population. They live in Abu-Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah. Recently, many Jains have migrated from India and Europe. There are approximately 10,000 Jains in Dubai.

The Jain temple is a home temple (Ghar Derasar). It is the only Shwetamber temple in Dubai which caters to many Jain families. The temple has Shree Vimalnath as a Mulnayak, Shree Sankheshvar Parshvanath and Shree Sumatinath. Located is Musalla residential Tower.

## Jumeirah Lake Towers (JLT)

This is a Ghar Derasar with Jain canteen (ayambil/bhojanshala) chovihar house facility. The Mulnayak is Shree Dharmanath and other pratimaji is of Mahavir Swami. It is located at Jumeirah lake tower.

## Jain Milan

The first ever Jain Milan Dubai was inaugurated at India Club Auditorium, Dubai in January, 2014. Though it was the first gathering of the Jain Community, the auditorium was fully packed with community members enthusiastically gathered in support of the Milan in Dubai. Bhattarak Charukeerthiji along with other guests lighted the traditional lamp and inaugurated the function.

## Jain social group-Dubai

It is nonprofit organization for last 20 years. They have more than 1800, members comprising of professionals and business people.

## Jains in Kuwait

It is a small Jain community in Kuwait with just about 75 families and is a mix of families from various Indian states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, etc. They meet under the banner of ARIHANT SOCIAL GROUP (ASG) having registered as a social group with Indian Embassy (in Kuwait).

ASG organizes all Jain festivals including Paryushan and Dashlakshana, a scholar is invited from India for pravachans on Jainism and highlights and importance of all of the 18 days of Parvas. They also have Stavan Sandhya (SS) once a month in any one member's home. They also organize picnics and other social events for entertainment and to encourage youngsters and children.





# Lost Horizon Of The Rich Jain Heritage

## Introduction

After, British took over India in 1857; they sent many Indians in different countries like Burma, Aden (Yemen), Fiji, Caribbean, Africa, Zanzibar etc mainly as a labour. Few Jains migrated to some of these countries, they kept their religion tradition alive. They built the derasar and Sthanaks for the worship. Later on, due to the political conditions, many left. Following are few examples of that lost heritage.

## Rangoon –Burma(Myanmar)

Yangon, formerly Rangoon, is the largest city with a population of about five million. It was the former capital of Myanmar (previously known as Burma).

Jains started arriving in Rangoon in search of business opportunities in the late eighteen hundreds. Prior to World War II, it is said that there were about ten thousand Jains in Burma. Many of these people had to leave, some even went via Manipur by road, Burma during World War II, in early forties. However, many Indians returned to Burma after the end of the war. There were about one thousand Jains living in Rangoon in the early sixties. When Army General Ne Win took over the civilian government in 1962, he started nationalizing all the businesses. As such, a lot of people had to leave. There are hardly three or four Jain families residing in Yangon at this time. However, the temple is being maintained and Jain religious festivals like Paryushan and Mahavir Jayanti are observed. Many people of other faiths also attend such celebrations.

The three-storey Jain temple is located on the 29th Street. The temple was inaugurated in or around 1914. The temple's Romanesque architecture is rather keeping in line with Rangoon's colonial architecture than it is adhering to traditional Jain temple design. The temple is quite functional with dining room and kitchen on the ground floor, Sthanakvasi hall on the second floor and the gabhara on the third floor, with Mahavir Swami, as the mul nayak. Recently, the temple got totally renovated with a generous donation from a Jain businessman from Singapore, who had been a former resident of Rangoon.



The Yangon Heritage Trust has been lobbying to preserve this temple, along with other prominent landmarks of old Rangoon.



# Aden (Yemen)

India and Yemen have a long history. Yemeni traders served as intermediaries for Indian trade and the Roman Empire. The Hajj route from India ran through Aden.

In 1839, Aden became part of the British Empire and was administered under the Bombay Presidency. A garrison of 2000 Indian soldiers was established in Aden and the Indian Rupee was made the official currency of Aden. Mahatma Gandhi visited Aden on September 2, 1931, on his way to London to participate in the Second Round Table Conference, accompanied by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Sarojini Naidu and others, during which time he was given a warm reception by the people of Aden.



A large number of Indian nationals, including Hindus, Muslims, Jains and Parsies, had lived in Aden during mid-1880s until mid-1950s. There is a rich heritage of Hindu, Jain and Parsi temples in Aden.

More than 2,000 jains lived there from late 1800. Shwetamber Jain Derasar was built around 1890. This was established in cloth markets. Shops for jains were on lower level. On the upper level was the temple which had the Murti of Mahavir swami and Shree Shantinath. These idols were sent to the Mumbai Paydhoni derasar in 1965-66. They also had Upashraya. At present out of ten original temples of different Indian faiths, four survived and one – Mataji Maharaj Temple – is in active use. Jain temple has no idol. Some pictures are present.

Sthanak was taken away. One of the Jain Shrivak 93 years old, who lives in Miami, was born in Aden.

## Jainism in Pakistan

After 1947, most of the Jains left Pakistan. Pakistan had many Jain temples in Punjab and Sindh. The spread and prosperity of Jainism in Sindh is marked by the presence of temples in Tharparkar district of Sindh. In particular Gori, Viravah, Bodhesar, Sati Dhara, Umarmkot town, Gadro and Nagarparkar are known for their Jain temples.



## Jain temple at Gorri



Jain Temple at Gorri, some 20 km north-west of Viravah, Tharparkar (Sindh) lies in a deplorable condition. It is believed to have been built during the heydays of the Sodhas around 1376 A.D. It has exquisitely decorated interiors reflecting the highly developed aesthetic sensibility of those who made it. The canopy which also serves as an entrance to the temple is decorated with paintings representing the Jaina mythologies. However, the paintings of Parshvanath being welcomed by yakshas and yakshinis are found in the domed ceiling of the canopy. As one enters the main hall of the temple, one finds on either side of the hall 12 cells thus

making the total number 24. It may have been used for housing images of 24 Tirthankars. It is very similar to the one at Bodhesar but far more superior in craftsmanship and finish, bearing architectural influence from adjacent Rajasthan from where the followers of the faith infiltrated into Nagarparkar and brought a new style of temple architecture.

## Gujranwala Jain library

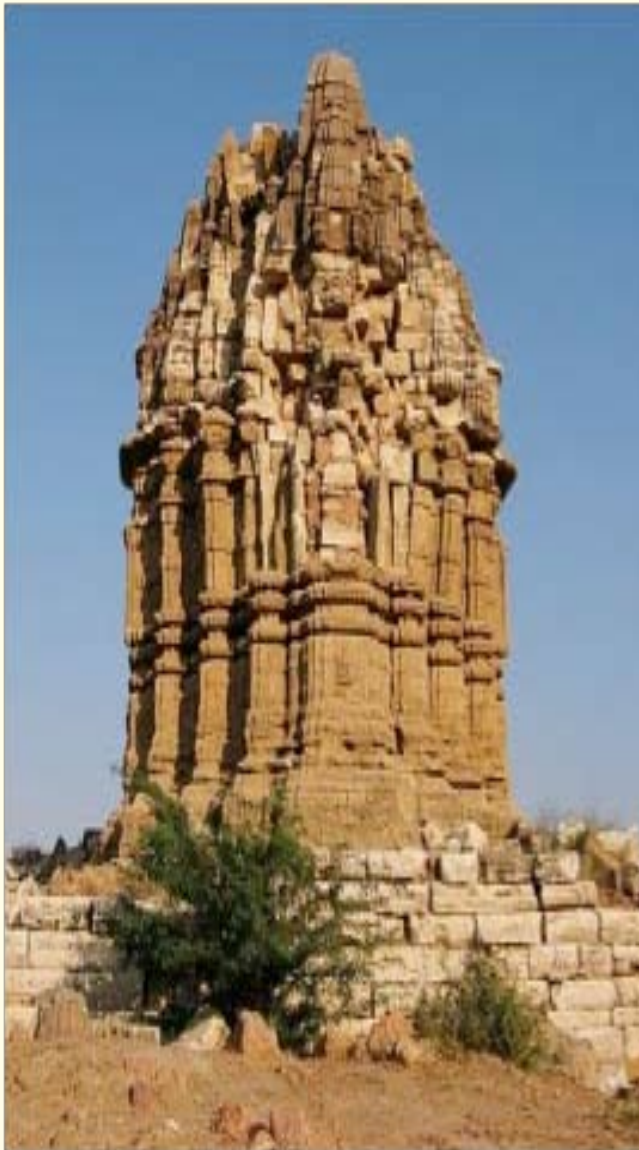


Gujranwala is situated 70km from Lahore. After the death of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, Gujranwala became important during Maharaja Ranjitsingh, who was born in 1744. Many Jains arrived here for the business opportunities. Yatishree Dunuchandraji with two disciples visited Gujranwala and brought first Idol of Shree Rishabhdev. Then many sthanakvasi monks visited the place. Many Jains followed sthanakvasi faith. They had Shwetamber Shikharbandhi Chintamani Parshvanath Temple and two Ghar derasars. During the Indian Muslim separation, Acharya Vallabhsuriji had chaturmas in Gujranwala. Jain Temple and big Jain Library was there. This was brought back to India with the help of the Pakistan Government by Sheth Kasturbhai who was instrumental to repatriate after eighteen years of work. At present Jain Agamas and other hand written books are present in Delhi Bharatiya Sanskruti Vidya mandir. The number is said to be around 20,000. Jain temple at Gujranwala is now a residence.



## Jain temple from Bhodesar

There exists a cluster of three temples at Bodhesar in Nagarparkar (Sindh) supposed to have been built in 1375 AD and 1449 AD. Two temples with corbelled domes are built of kanjur and redstone, and are finely carved. The third temple, which is raised on a platform, is most inspiring and imposing - though now it's in a pathetic condition. The upper part of the shikhara of this temple has fallen. This temple is believed to have been built by a Jain woman and is locally called Poni Daharo.



## Jain Temple at Nagarparkar



A temple located in Nagarparkar bazaar was remarkable for its grace and elegance. It is richly decorated with sculptures and paintings. The carving on the pillars and on the entrance of the temple is magnificent. 24 km north of Nagarparkar, at Viravah stands a Jain temple in a neglected and desolate state. It is built in white marble and consists of an open group of pillars with carved capitals. Captain S.N. Raikes while traveling through this area in 1856 found the remains of five or six Jain temples mostly made of white marble. At present, only one temple survives. Near the western side of the temples are lying several valuable pieces of Jain sculptures which were accidentally found during the road construction. Some were left at the temple while the others were placed in the museum of Umarkot.





# Jainism In Nepal



Nepal is the only Hindu nation in the world. Bharat Chakravarty, the son of Lord Adinath, worshipped at the bank of the river Gandaki nearby Mansarovar lake. Bhadrabahu, the last Jain ascetic to have complete knowledge of Jain scriptures, was in Nepal for a 12-year penitential vow when the Pataliputra conference took place in 300 BCE to put together the Jain canon anew philosophy.

Out of the 24 Tirthankars, the 19th Tirthankar was Malinath, a female, who is believed to be born in Mithalपुरi (Jankapur) in Nepal. The twenty-first Tirthankar, Naminiath, was also said to be born in the same place.

Jainism became quite popular at the time of Shree Parshvanatha. The 24th Tirthankar Mahavir Swami, was the contemporary of Lord Buddha. It is an acknowledged fact that Jain religion became more prevalent in Nepal even after Mahavir Swami. In the second century, after nirvana (salvation) of Mahavir Swami Jainism was on decline. At that time thousands of Jain saints (Munis) died from famine which spread in northern India. At that time the famous saints known as Chadah, Purvadhari Bhadrabahu was performing Maha Prana Dhyana (meditation) in a cave in Nepal. When this fact became known to the Jain saints (munis), a group of 500 saints (Sangh) under the leadership of Sthuli Bhadra was sent to Muni Bhadrabahu to learn all-round knowledge from him. It is mentioned in Jain literature that even at that time Jainism was prevalent in Nepal.

In Kathmandu, a 2 ½ ft high stone image of Chandra Prabhu, the eighth Tirthankar has been recently (1993) found on the bank of Bagmati in Sankhumul (river). It was lying under sand. It is a standing image. There is an emblem of lotus on the chest. However, in Nepal archeological studies for tracing Jain monuments have not been scientifically carried out. Scholars and Jain Munis believe that the famous Adinath Temple of Chobar in Kathmandu was a Jain temple during the Lichhavi period.

An estimate is that there are 3500 to 5000 Jains live in Nepal. There is a Jain Temple in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Jain society inaugurated the Lord Mahavir Jain Niketan in 1979. The Pratistha for the Jain temple was performed in 1996. There are local Jain associations in the districts of Morang, Sunsari, Jhapa Saptari, Parsa Kathmandu. There are also Jain centres in Biratnagar and Kathmandu. In Naxal there is Mahavir Jain Niketan, which has a conference hall a guest house and a temple. The temple has two floors, one for Digambar panth and other for Shwetamber panth. a symbol of unit. At the right side is Jain bhavan, which has a wedding hall in addition to the several rooms for pilgrims. The temple complex is situated near Kamalpokhari (near City mall), Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City, Kathmandu. In the village of Chobar is the Adinath Lokeshwar Temple, originally built in the 15th century. It's a handsome three-tiered Newari temple and its roof struts, walls and courtyard are adorned with hundreds of metal plates, cups, dishes, knives, ladles and ceremonial vessels, nailed there by newlyweds to ensure a happy married life. The temple is sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists, and in front is an octagonal stone shikhara temple fronted by a gilded dorje symbol. A tangle of lanes leads off the square in front of the temple to the main part of the village and a small Tibetan Buddhist monastery.





# Jainism In Malaysia



First Shikharbandhi Jain temple dedicated to the Shree Chintamani Parshvanath, in Malaysia is located in Ipoh city of Malaysia. Ipoh city is 200 kms north of Kuala Lumpur. It is possible, that some early Jains arrived way back in the 15th and 16th centuries in Malacca. Second wave of large scale migration took place during British Raj. Third wave of Indians arrived after 1990s mainly to work as foreign professionals (mainly in IT Sector and teaching). At present there are about 2,500 Jains in Malaysia. They are mostly Gujaratis.

The temple in First Garden, Ipoh, stands majestic with its ornate dome rising above the rooftops of the surrounding neighborhood. The temple was built in 2002, inspired by the family of businessman Shri Bharat Jasani. Pujya Jinchandraji Maharaj has been visiting Ipoh to conduct various religious activities for many years.

The design of the temple follows that of a famous one in Tithal, Gujarat, India. The temple houses the statue of twenty third Tirthankar Parshvanath. The temple carving has been done by sculptors of Jaipur. Great care has been taken while planning the temple to ensure that the Jain heritage was properly reflected in its design. The temple bell is brought from India. The temple today serves more than just the 1000 Jain families in Ipoh. It is managed under the auspices of the Shantiniketan Foundation, Malaysia (SFM), a charity trust formed to help support Jain culture in Malaysia. This unique temple in Ipoh stands not just as a centre for the local Jain community.

Shantiniketan Foundation, Malaysia (SFM)

**In January 1999:** A group of 32 devotees went to Tirth Yatra in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Pujya Kirtichandraji Maharaj led and accompanied the yatra group.

**In February 2000:** Pujya Kirtichandraji Maharaj visited Ipoh and convey their blessings for the setting up of SFM. The formation of Shantiniketan Foundation was officially announced at an event by Pujya Maharaj Sahib.

**JULY 2000:** Bharat Jasani invited Pujya Jinchandraji Maharaj to bless and supervise the beginning of the construction works on the Jain temple in Ipoh.

**February 2002:** About 1000 devotees from all over Malaysia, Singapore, India and USA attended the Grand Pratishtha Mahotsav. For the first time in the history of Malaysia a chaturvidh sangh was gathered in Malaysia. The sangh was led by Pujya Kirtichandraji Maharaj, Pujya Jinchandraji Maharaj, Pujya Sadhviji Malyakirtiji Maharaj and Pujya Sadhviji Ramyakirtiji Maharaj with 85 Sravak and Sravikas from India. The pratishtha mahotsav was hosted by Bharat Jasani & family. After the pratishtha Bharat Jasani and family handed over the management of the temple to Shantiniketan Foundation Malaysia.

**JANUARY 2005:** Pujya Gurudev performed the Bhoomi Pujan on the adjoining land. The construction works on the guest rooms commenced thereafter.

**JUNE 2008:** SFM organized the first ever shibbir in Malaysia under the presence of Pujya Shri Jinchandraji Maharaj and Pujya Sadhviji Ramyakirtiji Maharaj. The theme of the 3 day shibbir was Science of Karma – Understanding the Karmic Theory. After the Shibbir, SFM organized a Dharma Yatra Tour of Pujya Jinchandraji Maharaj to Surabaya and Jakarta, Indonesia

**FEBRUARY 2012:** SFM celebrated grandly the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of Shree Chintamani Parshvanath Jinalaya. Pujya Sadhvi Shri Ramyakirtiji led the celebrations with representatives from various Jain Sanghs from USA, Kenya, Dubai, Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka and Penang.

*Address: Shantiniketan Foundation , Malaysia, 15, Persia ran Bekor 4, First Garden,30100, IPOH. Perek, Malayasia phone: 6055267801, cell -60165574007*





# Singapore Jain Religious Society-SJRS



*"I adore so greatly the principles of the Jain religion, that if there is reincarnation, it is my earnest wish that I be born in a Jain Family."*  
 – George Bernard Shaw (Irish playwright)

## A Short History of How We Came To Be

Jains have settled in Singapore since the beginning of this century just before or after the first world war (1910-1914). During the initial period, most of the religious functions were conducted on an individual basis. After World War II, the activities became organized and most Jain activities were carried out at 79, Waterloo Street. In 1957 Jains felt the need to re-organize themselves and the first committee of five, called Panch was elected. Subsequently, a new committee was elected every year to conduct Jain festivities and other religious functions at 79 Waterloo Street, a building with which Jains were historically associated.

After the government's acquisition in 1965 of the Waterloo Street premises, the committee carried out these functions in various rented premises. Soon, they felt the urgent need to have their own premises and for this purpose, they needed to organize themselves and register a society according to the local laws. In the year 1971/1972 the then five member committee took a bold step and raised S\$58,000 with the help of their 600 strong members. In 1972, the Singapore Jain Religious Society was formed and registered

as a religious society. In 1978, within 24 hours, they collected S\$96,000 which enabled them to purchase the land at 18 Jalan Yasin, measuring about 1000 sq. meters and build a two storey building. The hall on the second floor was used for religious functions and had an office and library. The ground floor consisted of an open hall, built up kitchen, store, parking lot and open space.

In 1978, a trainee monk, Smitaben was invited here. Her arrival and daily discourses increased the religious fervor and encouraged more religious activities. This is still continuing at present and Tapasyas including Varsitaps. Similarly, monetary donations to charities in India have increased year after year. Smitaben helped the community to understand the principles guiding real Jainism.

In her presence, the building was officially opened and named Jain Sthanak.

According to the society's constitution, any Jain whether Sthanakvasi, Deravasi, Terapanthi, Digambar, Oswal or Porwad speaking any language, regardless of creed could become a member and carry out Jain religious activities, keeping fundamental principles of Jainism. The society maintains its objective of Jain unity in Singapore.



In later years, other Jain saints like Pujya Chitrabhanu, Pujya Sushil Muniji, and other Mahasatijis graced Singapore and gave religious discourses. Jainism is part and parcel of great Indian tradition and culture and as such, other dignitaries like Pujya Murari Babu, Mahamandeshwarji, Shree Rameshbhai Oza, Dr. Soneji (now Pujya Athmanandji), Dr. Goenkaji also graced our Sthanak and gave religious discourses. Jains as well as other Gujaratis took part in all these discourses.

In 1995, with a population of 700 Jains, it was felt that a new modern Sthanak was needed. With a noteworthy donation of S\$500,000 by Smt. Nirmalaben Doshi in loving memory of her late husband, Sri Chandulal Doshi (our society's founder trustee and former president) and additional donations amounting to S\$500,000 by others, a new modern building was constructed. It has a fully air-conditioned prayer hall on the second floor with all amenities for cooking facility of up to 1000 people. Our modern building named as Smt. Nirmalaben Chandulal Doshi Jain Sthanak is a testimony of Jain spirit and devotion.

The society is running Jain Shala every Sunday morning. Many of the children have the knowledge of Samayak and Pratikraman. The library has religious and cultural books in Gujarati, Hindi and English. During Ayambil Oli, the kitchen caters for the Ayambil lunch. During Paryushan, daily Pratikraman and other religious activities are carried out. Ladies have their Satsang every week. Bhaktamar sessions are held every Sunday morning. The members also use the Sthanak premises for marriages and other social activities. There is a beautiful murti of Bhagawan Mahavir (Darshini) at the sthanak .

#### About SJS :

**Singapore Jain Shala (SJS)** aims to provide a strong base and an all-rounded education of Jain traditions and principles, and also aims to promote moral values to mould the children into becoming 'good Jains'. The Shala is open to any Jain child above 4 years of age and is completely free of any charges (e.g. books, materials, transport, etc). A broad -based curriculum has been specially created for the unique Singapore context, with the teachings also tailored to each student's ability and aptitude, which enables them to apply and practice Jainism in the globalised world in which they live.

#### Community Outreach Team- Commit

Committee was initiated in late 2009 to enable the community members to make a more focused and consolidated charity contribution to the wider Singaporean community, particularly the needy and less fortunate, and for the members and SJRS sub-groups.

Since its inception, Committee has had a series of activities with Sunlove, its adopted charity and also with other organizations. Continued efforts have been made to not only meet the needs of the locally adopted charity, but also to serve other organizations, respond to overseas crisis and increase environmental awareness.



“Everyone can give something. Even if you can't give money or material objects, you can give time, knowledge, wisdom, skills, leadership, attention, touch, advice, hope, laughter, or love”  
The most current visiting timings as well as advice on specific events are stated on the website. [www.sjrs.org.sg](http://www.sjrs.org.sg).

*The Singapore Jain Religious Sthanak premises are located at 18 Jalan Yasin (Eunos Area), Singapore 417991. Tel no: (65) 67427829. The Postal Address is : Katong P. O. Box 106, Singapore 914304E Mail : [sjrs@sjrs.org.sg](mailto:sjrs@sjrs.org.sg)*

*Compiled with the help of Singapore Jain Religious Society-SJRS*



# Jainism in Thailand

Bangkok is the capital and the most populous city of Thailand. The city occupies 1,568.7 square kilometers (605.7 sq. mi) in the Chao Phraya River delta in Central Thailand, and has a population of over 8 million. At present, there are 500 Jain families in Thailand. Many of them started arriving since 1984. They came for business like diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones. In 1990, Mogha family, Mahendrasingji Dagha, Himmatbhai Zaveri, Ashokbhai Zaveri, Bharatbhai Shah, Atulbhai Jogani and many others joined the community.



**Jain temple** was operating in rented premises since 1997. In December 1999 Pratishtha ceremony was performed for Shree Sambhavnath temple. This pratimaji was given by Zaveri vad, Ahmedabad. This is supposed to be 2250 years old. They got blessings from Pujya shree Chandrashekhar Maharaj.

**Activities:** Daily Ashtaprakari puja. Snatra puja, Sashvat ayambil oli, chaudas pratikraman, celebration of Paryushan, Pathashala for kids are some of the activities. At present, Shree Darshanaben Nayanbhai Shah lives in Bangkok. She is having a continuous Atham tap. Currently, she has completed 1,850 Atham tap. *Contact information: 191/24, SOI PUTH OSOT, Suriyawongse road, Bangkok-10500, Thailand. Temple phone +6626315176*

## Shree 1008 Digambar Jain Temple:

In Bangkok, there are 70-100 Digambar Jain families. In April 2004, Shree Nirmalkumar Sethi had visited Bangkok and had given an inspiration to construct a Digambar Temple. In 2007 three story structure was constructed. Pratishtha of Jin Vitarag bimb of 1008 Mahavir swami was performed. In 2008, the chaturdig sthambh was installed. All four Jin bimbs are of Mahavir swami. In 2009, the Jinalay was expanded in to the adjoining property making a bigger prayer hall. The Jin bimb and prayer hall are located on the 2nd floor. 3rd floor is open hall for swadhyaya. Activities include Celebrations of Daslakshana Parva, Mahavir Janma and Nirvana Kalyanak and perform various puja. Kida Pathashala gets conducted regularly. Projects like, Ahar Dan, Gau Dan, Helping unprivileged children and elders. Ayurveda camp, Blood donation are undetaken



*Contact: #143/3, Soi PuthaOsoth, off Mana Set Road .Near K. Building Apartment, Suriwong. Bangrak, Bangkok-10500, Thailand phone 22337894, DJF. Website. [www.djfmamdir.blogspot.com](http://www.djfmamdir.blogspot.com) 3 Ghar Derasar*

*– Shree Shantinath: Devangbhai S. Sanghavi, 315/441 fortune Condo 4, Sathu pradit soi 19. Yanawa, Bangkok, Thailand Tel: 0819389384*

*Shree Naminathji: Nayanbhai Shah 11/13 Baan sathorn golden legend, Kalphaphrk road, Chomthong, bangkok10150, Thailand Tel no. 0817116786*

*Shree Parshvanath : Shaivilbhai Shah Lumpini Place, water cliff, Tower C, block 31, 14th floor, Narathiwas Soi24, Bangkok, Thailand Tel : 0817116786*

**Compiled with the help of Bangkok Jain sangh**





# Jain Organizations in Hong Kong

## History

There are about 500 Jain families in Hong Kong who, immigrated to Hong Kong later than most other Indian groups. Jain community mainly come from Gujarat and Rajasthan. They belong to all major sects of Jainism.

### SHREE HONG KONG JAIN SANGH LTD

The temple established in 1994, This temple is supported by some 400 Jain families who are affiliated with various Jain traditions. Mr. Bharat Mehta contributes and gives his heart and soul to the running of the temple. Idols are Shree Adeshwar Bhagwan , Shree Parshwanath and Shree Shantinath. In 2012, addition to the current Upashraya, one more place is bought as an Upashraya in Hung Home District, where most majority of the diamond offices are situated. They have two gurus residing in Hong Kong. (Nirmal Sagarji and Uday Sagarji) .

*Temple address, Grand Bldg, 7th floor, Franville Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Tel No: 27399955 (hkjainsangh@gmail.com)*

**Ghar Derasar :** This temple's main idol is **Shree Chandra Prabhu**. Guruji Nirmal Sagar has performed the pratishtha. No pujari is required as Mr. Chetan Hakkad and his family has been performing daily Pujas. Many kids in the area perform daily morning Pooja at this temple and then proceed to their school. Address: South Sea Mansion, 6th floor, Flat "c", 81, Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, HKG. Contact email address: caamshah@yahoo.com Tel No. +852-23174371

### SHREE TAIPO HONG KONG JAIN SANGH

Taipo Temple is in the suburb of Hong Kong. The temple pratishtha was performed in the year 2012. The temple's main idol is Shree Chintamani Parswanath. Pratishtha was performed by Nirmal Sagarji. Daily puja, bhavana, and rituals are performed. A pujari is there to take care of the temple. Contact Address: *The Beverly Hills, House no. 19, Boulevard Delac, 23, Sam Mun Tsai Road, Taipo, N.T., Hong Kong. Tel No.+852-23144144 . taipojainsangh@gmail.com*



# Jains In Japan

At present, there are two Jain temples in Japan, with the Kobe Jain temple being the most famous one. On June 1, 1985 the formal opening ceremony of the Kobe Jain Temple was performed in Japan. Prior to opening of the said temple, Jain followers in Kobe, Japan used to congregate at their residences by turns where a photo of Lord Mahavir was placed. The idol of Bhagwan Mahavir was specially flown from Mumbai, India in 1984 and the Panch Kalyanak Pratistha was held in April in the same year. The temple incorporates all important features of Jain temples as in India which has been built with the funds contributed by the Jain community members of Japan. It is near India club. One of the important rituals of the temple is to change a symbol flag on the dome once a year. There are 40-50 Jain families in Kobe. *The Temple, is located at 7-5 Kitano-Cho, 3 Chome, Chuo Ku, Kobe, Japan Jain Sangh Kobe :81 78 241 5995 (Mr. Dhaulabhai)81 78 2419909/3464 (Mr. Khajanchi)*

## Jain Study by Japanese scholars

Fourty Japanese students were sponsored by the Government of India in the early 1950s to live and study in India. Some of them studied in Varanasi and Gujarat, which led to new interest in the study of Jainism in Japan. One of the accomplishments was the first Japanese book by Minakata Kumagusu to simplify and translate the concepts of Jainism into Japanese for use by the common people in Japan. A Japanese scholar, Dr. Shin Fujinaga checked the logical value of the Saptabhangi by exploring its relationship with anekantavada or the Jaina theory of multi-facet reality. S. Fuginaga was a scholarship student sponsored by Government



of India to study at the school of Languages, Gujarat University. He went on to completing his M.A. and PhD. in Indian and Chinese philosophy. Now, his work is referred in research all over the world and he currently presides over the Society for Jain Studies, Kyoto.

## Tokyo Jain Sangh

Recently some Jains have migrated Tokyo. There are approximately 50-60 Jain families. They have "Vasupujya Swamy Ghar Derasar" built in 2001 by Zhaveri family. At 1-10-12 JainJinalay, Higashi, Ueno, Taito Ku, Tokyo. family. Contact no 81-80-6500-9911. Tokyo Jain Sangh participates in all Jain functions including Ayanbil Oli, Paryushan, Diwali and Mahavir janmakalyanak. Pathshala for 15-20 children takes place every Saturday. Many scholars get invited including Shramaniji, Rakeshbhai and others.

*For contact:Rakesh/Hetal Shah. 401, Shihiyar kunj, 1-12-6 Misugi, TaitoKu, Tokyo 1110055.phone+886932026425,08040611060*

This is a small but vibrant sangh ,who keeps flame of Jainism going.



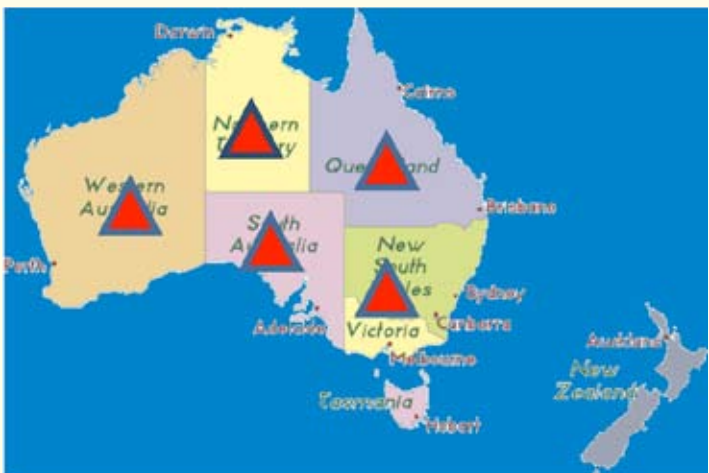


# JAINS IN AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND

Indian migration to Australia has been relatively recent compared to other parts of the world like USA, UK and Africa. Indians started arriving in Australia more than fifty years ago. They were mostly Sikhs. They came to work on the banana plantations in Southern Queensland. A larger wave of Indians arrived about 25 years ago, just after

Australia abandoned its white only policy .

Today, the Indians that are migrating to Australia are mostly in the Science, technology, Engineering and Math fields. According to the 2006 Australian Census, 0.015 of people from Australia had specified Jainism as their primary belief.



Sydney lies on the east coast of Australia. It has one of the largest natural harbors of the world and it is famous for the Sydney Opera Center.

Jain organizations in Sydney:

## **Shree Vitraag Jain Sangh (VJSS):**

Shree Vitraag Jain Sangh was formed in June 2008. Today, they have more than 750 members and numbers are growing each year. With the help and inspiration of Munishree Jinchandraji, they performed first Snatrapuja & Mahavir janma Kalyanak mahotsav. In 2010-Gruh Jinalaya Pratistha was held. Mul-nayak is Shree Sankheshvar Parshvanath, other idols are Shree Aadinath and Mahavir Swami. *This is located at 40 Darce Avenue, Lidocomb, NSW2141*

As per President Manoj Sanghvi, they have recently bought a piece of land. Their dream is to have Shikharbandhi temple. This will be a unforgettable gift to the next generation in Australia.

Contact: Manoj Doshi, [infovitraag@yahoo.au](mailto:infovitraag@yahoo.au)



**Sydney Jain Mandal (SJM):** It was started in 1991 by 2-3 families. Their monthly sessions on the last Sunday of the month includes bhajans, self-study and discussion on Jainism related topics. This became a platform for teaching children, meeting other Jain families and planning of the future activities. In year 2000 when the group grew to more than 100 families, Sydney Jain mandal did Pratishtha of Mahavir Swami at Hindu temple in Canberra. Later they did Pratishtha of Mahavir Swami and Shree Parshvanath in a Sri Mandir Hindu temple in Auburn, Sydney. In January 2014 they managed to acquire a property. This place is being developed as a temple and Jain education center.



**Dada Bhagawan Sangh:** In 2004, living Tirthankar Simandhar Swami idol was installed in Sri Siva mandir, 201, Eagle view Road, Minto. It was under the guidance of Shree Niruben Amin. In October 2014, Shree Dipakbhai performed a special ceremony for 40 small idols of Simandhar swami in Sydney.

### Melbourne Shwetamber Jain Sangh (MSJS)

This sangh was established in 2007. It is incorporated in state of Victoria, Australia. Since 2002, Melbourne Jains were getting together for religious activities. Mr. Nitinbhai and Minaben Doshi, Alkaben Khare are the founder members, who has lived there from 1992.

Members have grown from a small number in mid-90's to approximately 600-700 Jains including children. 60-70% of them are between the ages of 25-35 years old. *MSJS* manages a *Gruh Jinalaya* at 3 Rice Street, Moorabin, Victoria, 8139. They have beautiful Shree Chintamani Parshwanath as a Mul-nayak, along with Shree Adinath and Mahavir Swami. There are also pratima of Padmavati devi and Saraswati devi.





Pathshala for children are run by dedicated teachers. They also have competition and stage performances. Library has many books, audios and video CDs. They provide free service helping families to organize Snatra/Vastu Puja in their homes. They publish a yearly panchang according to the Melbourne time. Veer Sainik from Tapovan visits for the Paryushans. Navpad oli gets organized twice a year. Anniversary/Adhar Abhishek Pujan, in this yearly event, Pujya Shree Jinchandraji visits to guide. In spite of being a small sangh, MSJS played a leading role in supporting all visiting Jain scholars from around the globe during 2009 world religion conference. MSJS contributes significant amount as donation for Jivdaya, jirnodhra of Jinalaya, Sadharmic bhakti etc. *In India and Australia. Contact for the Visit: Mr. Nitin Doshi 0422625555, www.MSJS.org.au. There is another Gruh Jinalaya with Shree Sumatinath as a Mul-nayak. Contact Param & Ekta Shah. 36 D, Clay Street, Moorabin, Victoria, 3189, Phone -0395550991*

## Perth- JAIN COMMUNITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (JCWA)

In February 1999, JCWA was registered. JCWA in Perth is a small organization with only 125 families as members. However, size is not a deterrent to the enthusiasm and bonding within the community. Monthly Satsang usually comprises of bhakti sangeet and opportunity to reflect on Jain philosophy. Sometimes they have guest speakers and workshops by Srimad Rajchandra Divine (SRD). Pathshala classes that provide an essential source of knowledge for children.

During Paryushan, two Tapovan graduates visit Perth sangh. In recent years, Pujya Jinchandraji Maharaj conducted a Saraswati Poojan. Paryushan and Diwali is celebrated with gusto. Other social events include the Gujarati play, picnic, bingo night and river cruise. Jain camps and sporting events are held for the youth. A cultural event to support small business is also organized. Recently Gurudev Rakeshbhai Jhaveri visited Perth. *To contact JCWA, please visit their website [jainsperth.org.au](http://jainsperth.org.au), or email [info@jainsperth.org.au](mailto:info@jainsperth.org.au)*

**Gruh Derasar:** Dineshbhai Sheth has built a Gruh derasar for the Jain sangh in 2004. Here the Mul Nayak is Shree Rishabhdev, other two pratimajis are Shree Parshvanath and Mahavir Swami, Also many chitrapats like Shatrynjaya, Girnar, Samet shikhar, Pavapuri, Champapuri and Vis viharman Tirthankar including Simandhar swami are present.

For darshan, *please contact: Dinesh Sheth, 89, clement drive, Karrinyup, WA 6018, Perth, Australia, Phone: +61449094350*



## Auckland-New Zealand Jain Center

Auckland Sangh got established in 2007. Sangh has about 70 families. Sangh has Shree Parshvanath as mul-nayak, others are Shree Shantinath, Shree Simandhar Swami, Siddhachakraji, Shree Nakoda Bhairavji, Padmavati and Saraswati devi. Every Thursday evening they perform group puja and have adult/kid's Pathshala. Since 2007, Shree Jinchandraji Maharaj has visited New Zealand three times.

To visit Jain center contact: Parag Shah, 5, McGowan street, Mt. Roskill, Auckland, and NZ 1041 Phone: 64212788912

## Brisbane Jain Sangh (BJS)

BJS was established during the Paryushan of 2009, with the inspiration of Pujya Jinchandraji Maharaj. Over 150 families participate in various religious activities organized by the BJS. In March 2015 Pratistha of first Gruh Jinalaya took place under the blessings and guidance of Pujya Jinchandraji Maharaj. The Idols include Shree Parshvanath, Shree Adinath, Mahavir Swami, Shantinath Bhagwan, Padmavati Devi and Ghantakaran veer.

To visit please contact President Gaurang shah+61432104372, 5 Liberty Street, Forest Lake, Brisbane, Queensland, 4078

We appreciate the information provided by Nitin Doshi of MSJS, Manoj Doshi of VJSS, Pranita Killdeer of SJM, Gaurang Shah of BJS, Dineshbhai Sheth, JSW- Perth, Mr. Parag shah –Auckland, All are Presidents at their respective Sanghs.

### JAINA's first sponsored Children's Book - Mahavira: The Hero of Compassion



JAINA and JAINA'S Long Range Planning Committee (LRP) is dedicated to creating and promoting materials for the Jain Community.

Nationally recognized author and illustrator, Dr. Manoj Jain and Demi, created Mahavira the Hero. It was published by World Wisdom and is being sold on Amazon and many bookstores. JAINA and Jain centers has over 2,000 copies.

Mahavira: The Hero of Compassion has received many awards including the Best in the "Children's Religious" category of the 2014 USA Best Book Awards", which brought in over 2000 entries.

#### Here is what you can do:

- Pathshala teachers can provide this book to their students
- Grandparents can give the book to their grandchildren
- All Jains can gift this book to their non-Jain friends to introduce our religion
- JAINA LRP is giving the book as a gift to any donor who contributes over \$100

Get your copy today by going to: [www.jaina.org/buymahavirabook](http://www.jaina.org/buymahavirabook)



# Jains in United Kingdom

- By Dr. Naresh Shah

## History

Before 1950 there were hardly any Jains in UK . There were hardly 5,000 Asians at that time in U.K. From 1962 immigrants flow started to grow very rapidly. Political conditions in Africa forced Indians to start moving to India, UK and other countries. Within short period of time 30,000 Jains came to UK.

The Asians who came from east African countries, Sudan, Ethiopia and Muskat were used to live in closed communities in their countries. The biggest group arrived in UK is Halari Oswal group. An estimate is that there are 25000 Halari Oswals in UK. They came in a large number and knew each other. They started forming associations, one based on religion and other based on castes.

## What is Halari ?

Originally they had migrated from Kutch and settled around Jamnagar in Saurashtra. Area around Jamnagar is used to be known as Halar and therefore they called themselves Halari. Outside London they have two branches one in Luton and other being in Leicester. They have built a shikharbandhi Jain Temple in Potters bar, UK.

**The Jain Samaj, Manchester:** Dr. Naresh Shah had started the Jain Samaj, Manchester, in later part of 1972. He has written the constitution and it was the first Jain association to be registered as a charity. Most of the activities of the Jain Samaj were at that time was celebrating the Jain religious festivals, mainly Mahavir Jayanti, Paryushan and Diwali celebrations.





Samaj also collected funds for various other charity work. Funds were sent to India for an ambulance, look after the sick and unwanted animals, support medical camps and other activities for needy people in India. In 1984 Jain Samaj decided to have a building of its own with a view to have a Mandir and Upashraya. In 1994 they acquired the place of their own and started renovating that.

Present building contains Mandir, Upashraya, kitchen, hall; dining hall. Main hall has a capacity for 400 people. There are 160 families who are members of the Jain Samaj, Manchester.

Under the Jain Samaj other groups are active and using the Jain samaj facilities. The groups are Mahila Mandal, youth wing, volleyball Club, Bridge club etc. Pathashala are run by Guruji Rakesh Zaveri and their syllabus has been used to teach the children. Shrimad Rajchandra's Mission Dharampur and Shri Raj- Saubhag Satsang Mandals are two organisations which are established by the followers of Shrimad Rajchandra's. Both are quite active and do various religious, charitable and cultural activities.

## Jain Samaj Europe, UK

### History

It all began with a few devotees who used to meet for Paryushan in a small house from 1969 onwards... In 1973, with the increased Jain population in Leicester, a constituted body named Jain Samaj Leicester was established. During his tenure between 1973 and 1977, its first chairman Mr. Manohar Mehta and the executive committee laid foundations for Jain Samaj; increased membership and activities. Dr. Natubhai Shah, a visionary, succeeded Manharbhai. During his tenure from 1977 to 1989, he put Leicester on the Jain map of the world by the following achievements:

- Jain Samaj Leicester was registered as a charity in 1978.
- 1979 - A spacious church building was purchased in Oxford Street, situated in the heart of Leicester, and renamed The Jain Centre. Dr. Shah helped to build a rapport with the local community in Leicester, local and national interfaith organisations, Jains in the UK, Antwerp, India and other parts of the world.



- Jain Centre obtained substantial grants from Leicester City Council, Man Power Service Commission and Department of Environment. He convinced Jains in India to gift the temple for the Leicester Jain Centre. For this purpose, Jinalaya Trust was established, in India, under the chairmanship of Shrenikbhai Sheth who looked after the construction of the temple and its carvings. To get equipment and stain glass windows for the Centre, the Jain Centre trust was also established under the Chairmanship Mr. Kantilal Talakchand Shah. The Jain Social Groups Federation gave full co-operation for the Jain Centre development.
- 1980 - The Jain Samaj Leicester was expanded as a European body, so that any Jain living in Europe could become a member and participate in its activities. Jain leaders in India and Acharyas of all major Jain traditions supported this noble cause. Gurudev Chitrabhanu and Acharya Shushilkumarji blessed the development of Jain Centre. Acharya Chandanaji helped to create the beautiful museum at the Centre.
- 1982 - Jain Samaj opened an office in London, to cope with the growing interest Jains in London.
- 1983 - On 10th November, Shinalayas ceremony, the laying of the foundation stones for the first fully consecrated Jain Temple in the western World, was performed.
- 1984 - On 14th December, the Anjan Shalaka ceremony was carried at Pali (Rajasthan). Here Mul Nayak is Shantinath Bhagvan. Other idols are: Parshvanath Bhagvan and Mahavir swami. There are also Manibhadra Veer, Padmavati Devi, Chakreshvari Devi, Gautam Swami and other idols. There are Digambar idols too and the area is like a small Digambar temple. There is also facility for Shrimad Rajchandra's followers.
- 
- 1985 - On 25th August, a festival of entrance ceremony for 8 days was held at De Montfort Hall, Leicester and the above images were brought into Jain Centre. Chandubhai Trivedi (Somapura), Snehkant Shroff and Gallery Associates helped to create the marvelous temples and refurbished the Centre.
- Leicester city council and Leicestershire Museum helped in the administration of the grants. Diocese of Leicester helped the administration of the Jain Centre by allowing the services of Rev Michael Igrave as an administrator at Jain Centre for 3 years.
- 1988 - Temple was completed in 1988 on 8th July. The images entered in Garbhagriha (permanent place of abode) on 20th July. The Pratistha (installation ceremony) of the images was performed. The Pratistha Mahotsav was for 16 days starting from 8th July 1988 to 23th July 1988.
- Jain centre had visits of many dignitaries including High Commissioners of India, Chief Minister of Gujarat, Artists and Actors. The Jain Centre was honored by British Prime Minister John Major's visit in 1997 and Royal Family visit in 2000.
- Jain Samaj Europe (Leicester) is the first European centre for the advancement of the Jain Religion and principles of Jainism and houses all the Sects of Jainism under one roof. It has a Shwetamber and Digamber Jinalaya, Sthanakwasi Upashraya, Guru Mandir, Shrimad Rajchandra Gnan Mandir and museum of Jain artifacts.
- Jain Samaj Europe (Leicester) provides a place of worship, library, Pathshala, bhojansala and promotes Jainism by publications and lectures to school and other visiting groups

### **Jain Samaj Europe**

Jain Centre, 32, Oxford Street, LEICESTER, LE1 5XU, England, UK,  
Tel: +44 (0)116 254 1150, help@jaincentre.com



# Jains in UK

*Written by Dr. Vinod Kapasi*

UK comprises of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Jain population in the UK is mainly concentrated in the England. Most of the Jains are in London, Leicester and Manchester city areas. Most of the Jains have arrived in late 1960s and early 1970s. People like me came to this country on a 'Graduate Work Permit Visa'. At that time few Jains gathered during Paryushan to celebrate their holy days. The life was very different then and people could not meet very regularly.

After 1970, the political climate in East Africa worsened and people started leaving Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. In 1972, people were forced to leave Uganda by Idi Amin. This way the Jain population in the UK increased. Even now 75% of the Jains here have come from East African countries. In this exodus from East Africa, large proportion of the Jains were from Oswal community. They established their own Oswal Association here. Non-Oswal community was somewhat smaller and they were collectively known as Navnat people. When they came to England they established Navnat Vanik Association here. Today this two are the major organisations here. After the initial period, many other organizations were formed. Jain Samaj Europe was established in Leicester and has made a remarkable progress. In London, we have Institute of Jainology, Mahavir Foundation and other organisations.

At present there are approximately 35,000 Jains living in the UK. Out of this, more than 25,000 are in Greater London area and some 4 to 5 thousand in Leicester and some 5,000 scattered at different places.

## Details of Jain organisations

**Oswal Association:** is the largest Jain organisation as there are more than 15,000 Oswals here. The main office is in Potters Bar (a small town situated about 15 miles from North-West London). Here Oswals bought 84 acres of land in 1984. There is a beautiful community hall and a magnificent derasar. The derasar is built in a Jain architectural tradition and all the carved stones like pillars, torans and dome

were brought here in separate pieces and were all assembled here by the Indian craftsmen. The main deity is Mahavir Swami and there are other two idols; Parshvanath Bhagvan and Aadinath Bhagvan. There are idols of Veer Manibhadra and Padmavati Devi. Outside the temple, one can see 24 idols of 24 Tirthankars and other beautifully carved structures of Samovasaran and Guru Gautam Swami. Oswals have built 52 Oshas (seating platforms round a tree) commemorating the 52 villages in Jamnagar district. Oswal community migrated from these 52 villages. In the same large compound, there is a huge car-park and a magnificent hall which can be rented for social activities.



Oswal community has three more properties in the greater London area. One in Kingsbury, the second one in Croydon and the third one in Hounslow. The Oswals have established their roots very firmly in the UK and the Young Oswals have made very good progress in various fields.

**Navnat Vanik Association:** Second largest organisation in the UK is NVA. It has got its own big property with 18 acres of land in Hayes area of London. Navnat Vanik has membership of mainly Jains, but many non-Jains are also the members (like Kapole, Modh, Porwad and Khadayta Vanik). The hall is the hub of Navnat's many activities. Navnats have also



Youth Wing, Ladies Wing and Vadil Mandal. All three branches are very active and hold programmes regularly. Navnats also give large sums of money in various charities every year.

**Mahavir Foundation:** The organisation was founded in 1987 and has made a considerable progress. Its main success lies in establishing a temple in Kenton area. This is the area where many Jains live in about 5 miles radius of the temple. This is the reason the attendance in this temple is maximum. Mul-nayak is Mahavir Swami. Other pratimaji's are Aadinath Bhagvan, Munisuvrat Swami, Parshvanath Bhagvan, and Simandhar Swami. Other dev-devis are- Padmavati Devi, Saraswati Devi, Veer Manibhadra, Ghantakarna Mahavir, Nakoda Bhairavji. All pratimaji's Anjan Shalaka vidhi were performed in India. Parshvanath Bhagvan and Mahavir Swami's idols are very old and has certain aura around the idols. There is also a murti of Gautam Swami and large Patt of Shatrynjaya, Sammet shikhar and Girnarji Tirth.

**Jain Net-Work:** Jain Net-Work has purchased a large building in the Colindale area of London and planning permission has been obtained to build a Shikharbandh temple there. The building will comprise of a temple, car-park, Interfaith Centre and Upashraya plus some residential accommodation.

**Other organisations** like Bhakti Mandal, Vanik Associations of UK, East London and Essex Jain Sangh, Shri Navyug Jain Pragati Mandal, Veerayatan UK and Jain Vishva Bharati (JVB) do good activities. Veerayatan runs Jain School for children and adults. JVB's Sharmanijies teach Preksha meditation to Jains and non-Jains alike. Institute of Jainology: Now I want to mention a Jain Organisation which has made its mark in the UK and abroad.

**This is Institute of Jainology.** IOJ has done tremendous progress in promoting Jainism to the main stream people of the UK. IOJ has carried out and almost completed a big project of digitising and cataloguing of Jain Manuscripts preserved in the UK. It is a remarkable achievement. IOJ was the first to present a 'Jain Declaration on Nature' in a big ceremony held in the Buckingham Palace. A Jain Holy book Tattvartha sootra (That Which Is) was translated and published by the IOJ after painstaking efforts. IOJ has also helped in promotion of Jain arts in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. IOJ's progress is remarkable and praiseworthy.

Prince Charles visited Jain Temple in UK Jan.2015



*Dr. Kapasi is the founder trustee and now the president of 'Mahavir Foundation'- a registered charity established in 1987.  
Vinod Kapasi was also the founder president of Jain Social Group, Middlesex.  
Dr. Kapasi was chosen to speak in the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago, 1993.*



# Antwerp Jain Temple



Antwerp Jain Temple is the largest outside of India Jain Cultural Center Antwerp (JCCA)  
**Antwerp is become important hub for Diamonds and Jains:**

Antwerp was known as a diamond centre for over 100 years. In the late 1950- 60s, few Palanpuri Jain Indian families with limited means and with big dreams came to Antwerp to join the diamond trade. And over period of time Indian Jain Community arrived in Antwerp for

## A unique Monument for Peace and Love:

The Antwerp Jain temple is the largest of its kind in Europe and offers a glimpse of its rich traditions of Jain religion based on non-violence for peace and love. Jain temple is a signature of Jains who are settled in Antwerp for many years and are keeping their religious traditions alive. According to people connected with the temple, this temple is not only strengthening the



diamond Business and now has grown over to 600 families who are calling Antwerp as their home.

## The Birth of Project for Jain Temple in Antwerp

Having a large numbers of Jains in Antwerp, it decided to build a Jain temple in Antwerp rather than in any other destination in Europe like London. And this dream became reality when the committee was formed which started planning for this Dream Project. The Jain temple project has been spear headed by the Jain Cultural Center Antwerp (JCCA). "The Jain temple will out live us as a symbol for peace, unity and universal love to any living beings and non- violence, It will forever connect Belgium and India in the true spirit of religion and culture".

bonding between Jain community people in Antwerp, but also among other Indian communities and the local communities living in Antwerp. It is a kind of a bridge for a strong bonding between both countries India and Belgium.

## Start of establishing Jain Virtues:

For the first time after the JCCA was formed, the Indian community observed and celebrated the first time Jain pious days of Paryushana in Antwerp. This pious ceremony for eight days of Jain religious discourses, during which some strict Jains do

fasting with consuming only boiled water and following strict norms of Jainism in their day to day life for eight days.



### The Construction of Jain Temple and Aradhana Bhavan:

Construction finally has begun for the temple and Aradhana Bhavan (A place for any Pious Celebration with the Jain Community) in the year 2001. Combining traditional Eastern ideology, religious theology and architecture wasn't easy when dealing with a Western mindset and with the adverse weather conditions. While the cold Belgian climate is not favorable for marble, it was important for us to retain the condition of the temple in good state for years to come. Thus builders have chosen and ordered the hand-carved marble and cut marble stones from Makrana, which provides the strongest marble available today in the world to stay intact in all weather conditions, Makrana is a town in west north of India which is world-famous destination for the quality of its marble.

At the construction site in Antwerp, the operation to construct this temple was like a giant lego system while assembling marbles by approximately 250 Indian technicians who came to Antwerp on a six-month rotating basis. Jain temples are made according to the ancient scriptures known as shilpa-shastra that lay out the salient features, correct measurements and astrological directions. The use of iron is forbidden in the making of Jain temples, so we had adapted by using copper instead. While the grills and windows of a Jain Temple in India normally remain open but here in Antwerp due to weather condition, it is covered with insulated glass windows. The Meditation Centre which we call as Aradhana Bhavan is a total of over 2,000 square-meter construction next to the temple that was built entirely by the Belgian contractors with all different facilities that are required to accommodate people for any small or big religious events. The doors of Aradhana Bhavan are exhibiting Jain historical events and philosophy and that are made in special teak wood stable in all weather conditions.

### Jain Rituals:

There was a special ceremony took place called Anjan-Shalaka or Pran-Pratistha, during which the holy-collyrium is applied to the eyes of the statues. "In this ceremony, the Acharya Bhagwant (the top rank for Jain Monks) who brings divine life in these statues effectively gives Life, or Prana, to the image in a sacred ceremony. After this

sacred ceremony, marble statues become the God/Prabhuji/Parmatma that are now meant for worshipping/praying.

Antwerp's Temple is dedicated to the 23rd Jain Tirthankar Parshvanath (877-777 BCE), a living person who has conquered worldly life and diminished the cycle of death and re-birth, and provides a bridge between sansar to moksh/nirvana- liberation/free of soul from its body and that is the state of soul free from all Karma while following the right faith and right knowledge. Mulnayak of the temple is Shri Shankheshwar Parshvanath Bhagawan and has a special portal to place the deities for worship. There are Shri Adeshwarnath Bhagwan, Shri Mahavirswami Bhagwan, Shri Munisuvratswami Bhagwan, Shri Vasupujyaswami Bhagwan, Shree Padmavati Devimata and Shree Ghantakarna Mahavir-Dev also in this temple.

A great Jain saint Acharyashri Subodhsagarji who is initially Guru Bhagwant of Antwerp Jain Sangh led the dream of constructing Jain temple in Antwerp. After his sad demise due to his illness it was followed with utmost care, under guidance by his disciples Jain saint Acharyashri Manohar Kirti Sagarsuriji and Jain saint Acharyashri Udaykirtisagarsuriji.





### Distinctive Example:

Antwerp's all Jain segments have set an unique example of unity in diversity into the Jain World, where all the sectors of Jain Religion celebrate together pious days of Paryusana Parv, which are the days for repentance of one's faults and forgiveness is given and urged for, to all living beings in the universe.

### Asceticism and Diamonds:

The Jains in Belgium were hardly known due to their Jain religion but since this temple was built and inaugurated the religion become more popular due to its unique philosophy for peace and love. This has much to do with their unusual moral principles and doctrine of purity in to the day to day life such as: non-vegetarian food, no seafood, no eggs, no roots vegetables, no honey, no alcohols, etc all these are strictly forbidden. Their work ethics are just as intense.

The important day marked forever is the placing of the idols in their rightful places and the hoisting of the holy Jain flag on the temple's tower. It took a long time, but it was worth it."

**Yes, this is the Temple of Jain religion but we want you to consider this as a temple which spreads the message of non-violence, message of universal brotherhood for love and Peace.**

Address: Laarstraat 20, 2610 Wilrijk,  
Antwerp, Belgium,  
Contact: Phone/Fax: +32 3 336 12 33,  
Email: jcca1@telenet.be.  
Compiled with: The help of the JCCA

*Compiled with the help of the Rajesh Talsania and Arun Jogani*

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## Theory of Karma- Super Mario way Sohum Daftary ,Texas

I had the worst seat at the table. Right in the center, squished between two meaty boys and sitting in front of my stern patrol leader--not the most comfortable position for a scrawny Indian eating a veggie burger.

I was at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree as a budding thirteen year old, and it was the first lunch of the campout. The boys in my patrol, their white faces red and sweaty, stood around their grill and flipped beef patties. I was a distance away, close enough for the beefy smoke to surround me, but far enough to cook my veggie patty on the grill I had brought. From the other grill, Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum, twins nicknamed by the patrol, glared at me and my lonely patty.

They didn't know me and they didn't like me. And why would they? I could not participate in traditional scouting activities, like fishing and hunting, I was eating different foods, and I didn't have the iconic Christianity patch on my uniform. I caught their stare and quickly turned back to attend to my patty, which was now sizzling and waiting to be flipped. The twins snickered when I fumbled to turn it over. This was all new and I hated it.

Sizzle. My lunch was ready.

I took my veggie burger towards the dining tent where the boys, their mouths dripping beef juice as they chewed. I approached, and the whispering stopped. Boys shuffled away from each other to make just enough room for me. The worst seat at the table. I bit into my burger.

"So what are ya?"

Luke asked me plainly. What kind of question was that? I could retaliate with a smart remark, but I felt the muscles of the twins flexing, indicating that this was a bad choice. Should I tell Mr. Ness? No, for many reasons. I needed to explain my religion to my fellow scouts; I mean, these guys shared tents with me, so I knew they could respect my culture if I could only present it in an accessible way. Talk of reincarnation and karma would confuse just about anyone, so I needed something simple and direct. Suddenly, I knew. I looked up at Luke and smiled.

"Have you ever played Super Mario?"

They all had. That lunch, it was Mario and Jainism. When Mario collected coins, he found positive karma, increasing his score. When he collided with a mushroom, he lost power the same way Jains gained negative karma when we ate meat. Mario's multiple lives were his reincarnations, and the game map was the Jain universe. Winning was attaining nirvana. It was crude, but effective. "Man, I wish I could explain my religion with Mario!" Tweedle-Dum chuckled, placing his heavy arm around my shoulders.

That lunch, I had the best seat at the table. Right in the center, huddled between two brothers and sitting across a grinning patrol leader. For the first time, I shared my story, and that lunch, I finally joined the troop.



# Shree Digamber Jain Association (SDJD)



The SDJA is based in London, United Kingdom and is composed of Jains who follow a strand of Jainism based on the exposition of Gurudevshree Kanji swami, who was based in Songadh, Gujarat, during the early 20th century.

Pujyashree Kanji swami, after spending many years as a Jain monk in the Sthanakwasi sect and there after doing deep study of the Digamber Jain scriptures and meditation, decided to reside in the secluded village of Songadh in Saurashtra to do further study, meditate and pursue his goal, but soon found followers gathering around to learn the meanings of scriptures explained by him, and the impact of which later spread all over India and abroad to Kenya, UK, USA and other parts of world. Many swadhyay halls and temples were and are still being built in India to propagate his teachings of Jainism. In the early 1950s, 'mumukshus' in Nairobi, Kenya formed a Mandal and later bought a property for a swadhyay hall and temple but the pinnacle was reached when a new Shikharbandh temple was consecrated and a panchkalyanak pratishtha mahotsava was held in the **presence of Gurudevshree in 1980.**

**1981 – 1984: Indian mumukshus' come to London:** Due to the political atmosphere in Kenya, some 'mumukshus' started migrating to the UK in the 1970s and continued their religious pursuits through swadhyay in groups. In 1981, Shree Virchandbhai Malde from Songadh visited London, in 1982, Lalchandbhai Modi of Rajkot, who gave the benefit of swadhyay for nearly six weeks. In 1984, Shree Shantibhai Revashankar stayed in London for nearly a year and gave lectures and taught methodically the basic principles of religion. This led to a larger following of 'mumukshus'.

**1989 – 1993: Formation of London mandal :** Shree Bhagwanji Kachrabhai Shah, who had spent nearly 30 years under the umbrella of Gurudevshree in Songadh, migrated to London in 1982 and started regular swadhyay and teachings twice a week at his residence. The growing number of 'mumukshus' taking interest in swadhyay and learning, led by Zaverchandbhai and others, initiated the idea of forming a mandal in London, which was inaugurated as Shree Digamber Jain Association on 17.09.1989. An interim committee was elected under the

leadership of Laxmichandbhai BK Shah, he served as President for 12 years until the year 2002.

## **1993 – 1994: Purchase of property to be our temple**



On the inspiration of Bhagwanjibhai and his continuous prompting that the mandal should purchase a property for regular swadhyay and a mandir, after an extensive search, Laxmichandbhai was able to find the appropriate property with the planning permission for religious activities. In 1993, members unanimously agreed to purchase the property, All the members committed generous donations for the purchase of the property. The property needed considerable repairs and renovations, which were completed in record time and at most economic cost with the efforts of Laxmichandbhai The opening ceremony was performed by Bhagwanjibhai in the presence of a large gathering on the auspicious day of Gurudevshree's 104th Janma Jayanti on 16.05.1993. The daily activities started with full force and continues to date with Puja, Gurudevshree's pravachan and swadhyay by our members Shree Premchand Meghji, Zaverchand Meghji, Amubhai Haria, Shital M. Shah, Zaverchand Punamchand Shah and others. The festivals of Paryushana, Mahavir Jayanti, Diwali, Gurudevshree's and Bahenshree's janma jayanti and various other religious occasions are celebrated each year.

**1994 – 2001: Transformation of property into a temple :** The time had arrived to renovate and extend the property befitting a temple and a decision to this effect was made by the members in 1994. The detailed study and planning was undertaken and at the Annual General meeting of the members on 16.05.1999, members



unanimously approved the plans and gave a mandate to President Laxmichandbhai to carry out the project.

Laxmichandbhai with the immense help of Vice President Vijenbhai carried out the project not only to a very high standard of construction such as granite cladding, underfloor heating, marble flooring but also added innovations such as ghabharo, bha mandal, marble carved scriptures, kalash, shikhar, shastra gokhla, ashtamangal carved doors and other decorations and fittings. The foundation laying ceremony of mandir shilanyas vidhi was performed by Bhagwanjibhai and his family, and over 400 mumukshus laid bricks in the foundation. The mammoth project was completed within a year and on 01.04.2001, the opening ceremony of the temple was performed by Naynaben and Kiranbhai K Shah. In addition, the five main shastras of Shree Kund Kund Acharya Dev were installed.

### 2001 – 2003: Parshvanath Bagman's Pradhramani

A mandir is a swadhyay hall until a 'pratishtith Bhagawan' is installed and towards that end, a large 61" idol of Shree Mahavir swamy. Pratishtith Bhagawan Shree Parshvanath, whose pratishtha was done in Ranpur, India in the presence of Gurudevshree, was brought to London by Shree Hemantbhai Gandhi and was installed in the mandir in 2003.

### 2005 – 2006: Unveiling ceremony of Shree Mahavir Swami



Thereafter, due to the punya pratap of Gurudevshree Kanji Swami, the unveiling ceremony of Shree Mahavirswami's 61" pratima was done in 2005, in London. It was attended by over 300 members and other guests. A Bhavya panchkalyanak pratishtha mahotsava of Bhagawan Mahavir took place in March 2006.

In March 2006, under the guidance of Pratishtha Acharya - Bal Brahmachari Shri Abhinandan Kumar, Jain Shastri Khaniyandhana. He was accompanied by our Nirdeshak - Pt. Ashok Kumar Luhariya, Teerthdhaam Mangalayatan, Shri Pawanbhai Jain and Ashaben. A four day "vidhan puja" of 170 Tirthankars which was attended by many members. The dream had become a reality!! In June

2006 - Vedi Shilanyas :A magnificent lotus shaped Vedi (a platform to place the Shree Mahavir Swami) has been constructed in the Temple. Over 100 Mumukshus placed silver tokens in the foundation. Pundit Sanjay Shastri of Manglayatan, accompanied by Pundit Virendraji Jain of Agra performed the ceremony. A three-day ceremony of Ratnatrai Vidhan was performed with rhythmic musical chanting of hymns of this Pooja with Pundit Shree Shanjay Shashtri and Virendraji.

**August 2006 - Panchkalyanak Mahotsav** :The most important event in Mandir's History took place between the dates of 4th and 9th August 2006. The Panchkalyanak Pratistha Mahotsav celebration was a momentous occasion and mumukshus from all around the world came to take part in the celebrations. Many Jains in the UK even previously did not know of mandal here in Wealdstone,



but celebrating this pratishtha mahotsav has put Shree Mahavir swami Jain Temple on the Jain map as a place to visit in the UK. A video clip of the "Shobha Yatra", a highlight during the Pratishtha can be found in video resource section. The renewed bhav has been quite visible in the remainder of this year 2006 through a much increased membership of our Association and a

packed crowd in the mandal during Das Lakshan parva this year. There is a 61" pure white marble pratishtha pratima of Mahavir Bhagawan backed by a gold-leaf floating bhamandal with pratima of Parshvanath and Mahavir Bhagawan in front.

**Transformation of Temple Grounds 2006** :With the inside of the mandir transformed it was fitting that improvements were made outside the mandir too. This resulted in the installation of a manstambh seen on the right of the photograph and of the bronze cast of Gurudev Kanji Swami seen on the left. The front face of the mandir was also renewed with new small shikhar adorning the top in front of the main three shikhar and flag.



Email: [info@mahavirjaintemple.com](mailto:info@mahavirjaintemple.com)

Postal Address: 1 The Broadway, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middx, HA3 7EH U.K.





## Jains at the heart of the interfaith movement.

JAINA President Prem Jain appointed Kirit C Daftary, JAINA Past president and the current trustee of the Parliament of World Religions to lead JAINA delegation to upcoming World Parliament in 2015. If you have never attended the World Parliament then this is the best opportunity to attend, then you should consider attending it.

Following are the committee members of the committee:

Prem Jain, Ashok Domadia, Arvind Vora, Naresh Jain, Girish Shah and Hema Pokharna. We have had so far 40 registrations to attend the Parliament. We are expecting to have over 100 Jains under JAINA banner at the Parliament.

The first World Parliament was held in 1893 in Chicago. Jain lawyer Virchand Gandhi captivated the assembly of 3,000 religious leaders at the premiere 1893 World's Parliament of Religions. Gandhi's achievement of becoming the chief exporter of Jainism from India places him among spiritual leaders credited for introducing Indian traditions to the United States.

After 100 years, next parliament was held in 1993 in Chicago. Thereafter in 1999 in Cape Town, in 2003 in Barcelona, 2009 in Melbourne and now in 2015 in Salt Lake City. JAINA has been actively supporting all of these parliaments.

## What You Will Experience at the Parliament

- Sharing beliefs and practices, learning from others, expanding networks
- Pairing with other religions to present together the experience of working with each other for a just, peaceful and sustainable world
- Collaborating on generating strategies to confront critical issues faced by humanity, such as climate change, hunger, poverty and violence
- Keynote speakers for the 2015 Parliament will include luminaries you will know and rising stars of many sectors, including the sciences and technology. Major religious leaders like His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Nobel Laureates like Desmond Tutu, and political leaders like President Mandela have addressed the Parliaments as well.

We invite you to become part of a Jain legacy in the Parliament from groundbreaker Virchand Gandhi in 1893 to the recently departed humanitarian icon Mahendra Mehta. Jains in the Parliament have helped carve the principles of the Global Ethic, demonstrate non-violence to the world, and will in 2015 set a new precedent for the future of the interfaith movement.

We have arranged a block of rooms at hotels close to the Salt Lake Palace. You can visit Parliament website [www.cpwr.org](http://www.cpwr.org). Please contact Kirit Daftary at [kcdaftary@gmail.com](mailto:kcdaftary@gmail.com) to book with JAINA group. We have discounted rates available.

Those who are active in interfaith community work and would like to serve on the board of the parliament as the Trustee, please contact Kirit Daftary at [kcdaftary@gmail.com](mailto:kcdaftary@gmail.com). He will provide you with the necessary details and application forms for the further consideration.



# 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial JAINA Convention

Jainism: World of Non-Violence

Atlanta | July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2015

## Convention Board

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Dear Friends:

Jai Jinendra!

It is our distinct pleasure to cordially invite you and your family to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial JAINA Convention to be held in Atlanta from Thursday, July 2 to Sunday, July 5, 2015. You will be part of history as it is the very first JAINA Convention in South-East region of USA! The theme of the convention is **"Jainism: World of Non-Violence"**.

We have invited a wide variety of eminent Speakers from all over the globe. The programming team is arranging lectures and panel discussions to convey the message of Jainism and non-violence. There will be ample opportunity to also network with family, old friends, make new friends and participate in professional tracks and enjoy delicious Jain vegetarian or vegan food.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the attendees via video. Mr. John Lewis a Congressman from GA and Mr. Andrew Young a former Mayor of Atlanta (activists in the Civil Rights movement with Dr. Martin Luther King); and Nipun Mehta (Youth humanitarian) are confirmed as key note speakers.

We will continue the tradition of "Jains Got Talent" and Cultural programs to provide an opportunity for our talented amateurs or unknown performers to showcase their talent in front of their own community.

The registration form, programming overview and sponsorship opportunities are included. The Fund Raising team requests your generous donation and sponsorships as it will help bring a successful convention to Atlanta.

Please visit [convention.jaina.org](http://convention.jaina.org) for more information and updates. Take an opportunity to register at the lower price of \$199 till May 15<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to welcoming you in Atlanta.

Best Regards,

**JAINA Convention Board**



# Sponsorship Opportunities

- Maha-Sanghpati: \$55,001, Sanghpati: \$31,001
- Corporate Donations
  - Platinum: \$10,001, Gold: \$5,001
- Swamivatsalya
  - Diamond Dinner:\$10,001, Platinum Lunch: \$7,001
  - Gold Breakfast: \$3,501, Silver Snack: \$2,001
- Individual Family Donation
  - Emerald: \$10,001, Ruby: \$ 5,001
- Evening Entertainment: \$3,501
- Raas-Garba Music Event: \$3,001
- Welcome Program: \$2,001
- Jain Networking Forum: \$2,001
- Jain Got Talent: \$2,001
- Jain Academic Bowl: \$3,501
- Travel Expenses For Speakers: \$2,001

For the sponsorships listed above as well as the associated benefits

**Please contact:**

**Deepak Shah @ 770-990-5309 OR Harshad Shah @ 732-333-4625**

Please visit <http://convention.jaina.org> for more information

Harshad Shah

Deepak Shah



# Souvenir Book Advertising

**Back Cover: \$5000**

**Inside of the cover pages: \$2000**

**Full Page (8.25" x 10.5"): \$1500**

**Half Page (8.25" x 5.25"): \$ 950**

**Quarter Page (4 " x 5.25"): \$ 500**

**Registration Bags: \$10,001**

**4000+ bags will showcase your advertisement**

Contact: Shobha Vora @ 408-833-8822, Ketan Shah @ 404-384-9100





## 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial JAINA Convention

2000 Convention Center Concourse, College Park, GA 30337  
**July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**REGISTRATION FORM:**  
 Register online at <http://convention.jaina.org>

**STEP 1: CONTACT INFORMATION** This information must be completed in order to receive your registration confirmation

Primary Registrant Name:		Name of your Jain Center:	
Address: Street/ Apt#		City	State/Province
Postal Zip Code			
Home Phone	Cell	Email	Country/Region
Emergency Contact:		Phone:	

**STEP 2: CONVENTION REGISTRATION** Please list all attendees including infants.

Last Name	First Name	Sex M/F	Age	Individual Registration Fee from chart in Step 3	JNF/Jain Milan Age 21-40 from chart in Step 3	Evening Social Activities Age 14 – 40 from chart in Step 3	TOTAL FEES (US\$ / person)

Total Registration Fees (US\$)

No. of attendees requesting VEGAN food: \_\_\_\_ Day Care needed\*  Yes  No

**STEP 3: INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FEES:**

			FEB 16 to MAY 15	MAY 16 to JUNE 25	On site	TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES FROM STEP 2	
ADULTS (AGE 18 & UP)			\$199	\$209	\$229	I would like to pay additional dollars to cover actual cost of \$300 per attendee.	\$
CHILD/YOUTH (AGE 6 - 17)			\$169	\$189	\$209		
JNF/Jain Milan (Age 21- 40)			\$125	\$135	\$145		
Social Activities (Age 14- 40)	\$70	\$80	\$90	\$100	\$110	<b>GRAND TOTAL (US\$)</b>	
<b>PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN U.S. \$ ONLY</b>							

**Notes:** 1. Children up to age 5 are FREE. \* Daycare will be provided for a fee.  
 2. After June 25, 2015, only On-site Registration will be available at above mentioned price/per attendee.

Please make your check (US\$) payable to:  
**JAINA CONVENTION**

Mail registration form and check to:  
**JAINA CONVENTION**  
 P.O. Box 072015  
 Atlanta, GA 30301 U.S.A.  
 EMAIL: [registration2015@jaina.org](mailto:registration2015@jaina.org)  
 PHONE: 1-770-870-0500

Charge my CREDIT CARD below. I accept all the Terms & Conditions on this form.  
**GRAND TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FROM STEP 3:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my:  Master Card |  Visa |  Discover

Card #: |\_|\_|\_|\_| |\_|\_|\_|\_| |\_|\_|\_|\_| |\_|\_|\_|\_|

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_ \*CVV Code: |\_|\_|\_|

Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: |\_|\_|/|\_|\_|

\*CVV Code is the last three numbers on back of credit card.

Credit card transactions will be entered on-line by JAINA.

**STEP 4: SIGNATURE:** Primary registrant must sign and date below.

I have read and accept the Terms and Conditions on the reverse side of this registration form.

SIGNATURE OF PRIMARY REGISTRANT:

Date:

### Jain Milan, JNF, Youth Activities & Evening Social Activities Program

- Jain Network Forum - JNF (age 21-40) is open to young Jains, who are interested in networking. JNF provides a strong network of young Jains through professional, relationship, social, and spiritual activities. JNF activities utilize attendees' diverse backgrounds and interests to build friendships and carry Jain dharma into the next generation. JNF ensures to Increase awareness through interactive sessions that relate Jain theory to real-world issues; improve professional skillset with individuals in similar fields to inspire & motivate youth; offer multiple experiences to allow Jains to meet life partners and friends that last a lifetime; and provide sufficient social opportunities to strengthen the JNF network.
- Jain Milan (age 21 – 40): Jain Milan provides an opportunity for Jain youth throughout North America and around the world to meet in person, to make friends, to engage in networking, to develop business contacts and to possibly find a life partner. Jain Milan sessions are facilitated in as many ways possible through Ice-breakers, interactive sessions, Mixers, Meet & Greet Events Relationship Workshops, Garba/Raas and Lake Cruise.
- Day time Youth Activities (age 14 – 40) aim to educate young Jains on various aspects of Jain philosophy and its application to the modern world during the daytime. Youth activities have the mission to expose youth to programming about living out Jain values in their personal and professional life with concrete skills. Youth Activities have planned Evening Social Activities that offer the best entertainment from prior conventions. The evening social activities will be in parallel to adult cultural programs. It is recommended that you stay there if you are part of the youth group.
- Evening time Youth Social Activities (age 14 – 20) are open to young Jains who are interested in Educational, Social, Charitable and Cultural Networking with other like-minded young Jains, meeting new and old friends, and learning more about Jainism. We are working on many varied events including Jain Iron Chef, an Ahimsa Concert, DJ Dance and much more.

### Convention Registration Terms & Conditions

- JAINA, its affiliated Jain Centers and their Directors, Convention Board, Officers, Coordinators, and Volunteers shall not be responsible for any loss, injury or damage to registrants and/or to any of their guests.
- Online and paper registration will close on June 25th 2015. Thereafter, you will be able to register on-site only.
- On-site registration begins at 9:00 am on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015. Only Credit cards will be accepted during onsite registration.
- All cancellations regardless of reasons prior to May 1, 2015 will be entitled to 50% refund of all collected fee amount.
- Cancellation after May 1, 2015 will be entitled to 25% refund of all collected fee amount.
- Absolutely no refunds for cancellation(s) shall be given after June 16, 2015 regardless of reasons.
- All cancellation requests must be in writing, sent by e-mail to [cancellation2015@jaina.org](mailto:cancellation2015@jaina.org). This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.
- Cancellation refunds will be sent by check or credit to credit card based on payment method. Please allow 30 days after the Convention for refund to be processed.
- JAINA reserves the right to change Convention plans (programs, activities, sessions, speakers, food menu etc.). No refund requests will be entertained due to any such changes.
- Parent or legal guardian must sign liability waiver if participant is under 18 years of age for participating in independent activities.
- Registration confirmation will be mailed or e-mailed to you. Each registrant must bring confirmation letter/e-mail and picture ID to registration desk to collect registration material and placement of ID wrist band. Wrist band may be reissued for \$10 with picture ID for verification.
- Bounced checks will incur a US \$50 return check fee. The processing of paper registration form will take 3-4 weeks.
- Date of online registration and postmark of registration form will determine applicable registration fees.

Official Use Only:	Post Mark Date:	Amount:	Check No:	Registration ID:	Updated DB:	Checked By:



# The 2014-2015 YJA Executive Board

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# Young Jain Professionals:

has taken off with great vigor and full speed ahead. In 2014 they organized and hosted over 50 events across North America including professional development events, community service initiatives, and spiritual/religious programs. This has brought *Young Jain Professionals* closer to their respective local sanghs, while also allowing members to connect with one another on core beliefs and values. This includes the use of online platforms such as Facebook, their online Blog, and their monthly Newsletter to allow busy professionals to stay easily connected to events/happenings, and to relevant discussions and articles. We hope to see you at our events in 2015!



Visit us at <http://yjp.jaina.org/> or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yjp.jaina>

Contact us at [chairs@yjp.jaina.org](mailto:chairs@yjp.jaina.org)

# JainDIGEST

A publication by the Federation of Jain Associations of North America

## APPEAL

JAINA invites you and your family to actively participate in the Jain Digest, which is a quarterly publication by JAINA. Jain Digest is mailed to over 12000 Jain families all over North America. Digital version is also available on [www.Jaina.org](http://www.Jaina.org)

The objective of Jain Digest is to keep the community well-informed about the happenings in the Jain world. It also aims to promote unity, bring awareness, and be proactive with political authorities to voice the concerns of the community. It is the united voice of the Jain community, and meant to strengthen the whole Jain community. It will also enhance the Jain way of life by accommodating the progressive changes of the 21st Century.

Jain Digest features news, interesting articles, tirths, profiles, events, heritage news, along with information on our culture and history. It contains captive reading material for youth, adults, as well as for ladies. It is thus a complete magazine for the whole family.

We request you to support the Jain Digest by:

- Submitting news
- Contributing articles on Jain Study
- Sharing achievements of youth
- Giving matrimonial advertisements
- Business advertisements
- Donations and Sponsorship

We are committed to serve the Jain community better with this Digest.

Your support, feedback and suggestions are welcome. Please write to [jaindigest@jaina.org](mailto:jaindigest@jaina.org)  
Thank you, with warm greetings, Editorial Team, Jain Digest

Be a part of  
**Jaina Convention**  
July 2nd to 5th, 2015  
Atlanta, Georgia