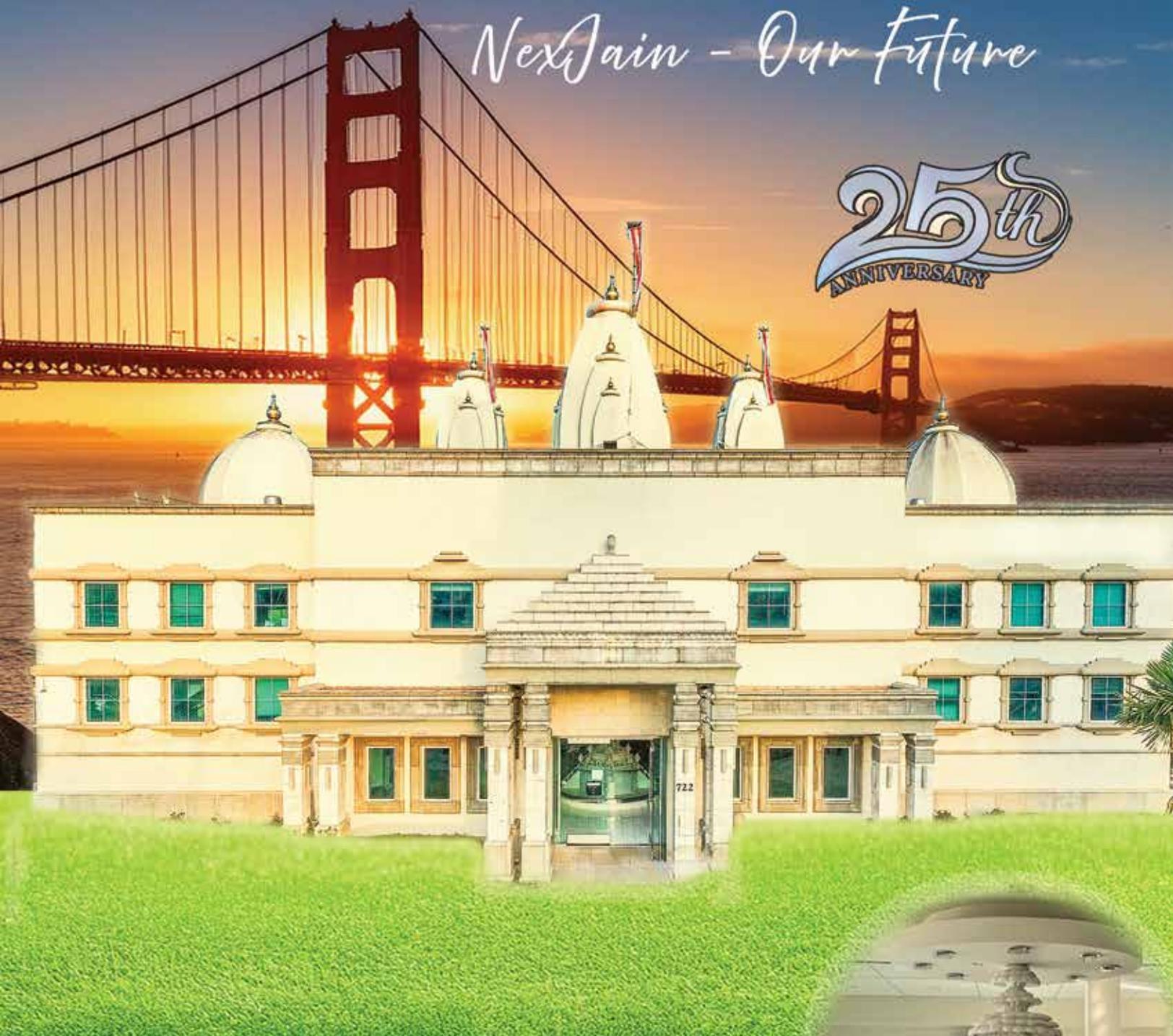


# Jain Center of Northern California

*NexJain - Our Future*

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY



**5<sup>th</sup> August 2000 - 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jain Bhawan**

**50 years of Community Services**



*Celebrating Silver Jubilee with*  
**JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**



✿ **RAKESH JAIN** ✿ **TRIPTI JAIN** ✿ **TRISHA JAIN** ✿ **HIRESH JAIN** ✿

*With best compliments from*

# **Trujain International**

**TRAVEL**

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# अप्पणा सच्चमेसेज्जा

Search for truth thyself  
स्वयं सत्य को खोजें

(Uttaradhyayan Sutra 6.2)

Celebrating 25 years of devotion, community, and spiritual growth at our Jain Center—a testament to the timeless values of ahimsa, truth, and unity.



Our best wishes,

**Jyoti and Nirmal Baid**  
San Jose, CA

# Celebrating Jain Center of Northern California's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



Thank you JCNC for being a spiritual home to us all.  
May our Derasar continue to be a sacred place of peace,  
prayer, and spiritual upliftment for generations to come.

Shri Popatlal, Smt. Bharati, Nayan, Yogita, Risha, Divisha,  
& Jain Family



णमो अरिहंताणं

Namo Arihantanam

णमो सिद्धाणं

Namo Siddhanam

णमो आयरियाणं

Namo Ayariyanam

णमो उवज्झायाणं

Namo Uvajjhayanam

णमो लोए सव्वसाहूणं

Namo Loe Savvasahunam

‘एसो पंचणमोक्कारो, सव्वपावप्पणासणो !

Eso Panchnamokkaro, Savvapavappanasano

मंगलाणं च सव्वेसिं, पढमं हवइ मंगलं !!

Mangalanam Cha Savvesim, Padhamam Havai Mangalam



# ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

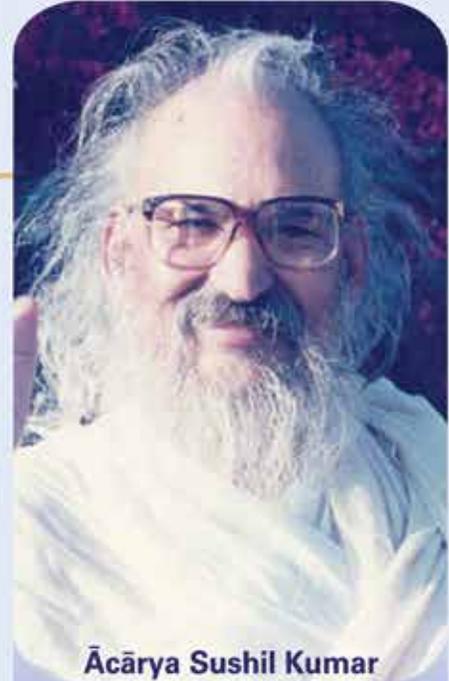
ANCIENT *Wisdom* | MODERN *Living*

## Democratizing Engaged Jain Studies

Making Jain teachings globally accessible through education, research, and real-world application of *ahimsā* (non-violence) and *karuṇā* (compassion) to inspire positive change.

### OUR EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

- GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM
- CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
- SCHOLARLY EVENTS



Ācārya Sushil Kumar

"We must build high-quality institutions to teach Jain philosophy and promote the esteemed Jain scholarship..."

Only *ahimsā* and peaceful means can provide lasting solutions for human disputes and environmental problems we currently face."

With Blessings & Inspiration from Ācārya Sushil Kumar

Neeraj & Parveen Jain  
Rupali, Puneet, Yuvaan & Maanya Jain  
Navita, Manu, Thanveer & Thaara Jain  
(San Jose, CA, July 2025)

*Congratulations*

25<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

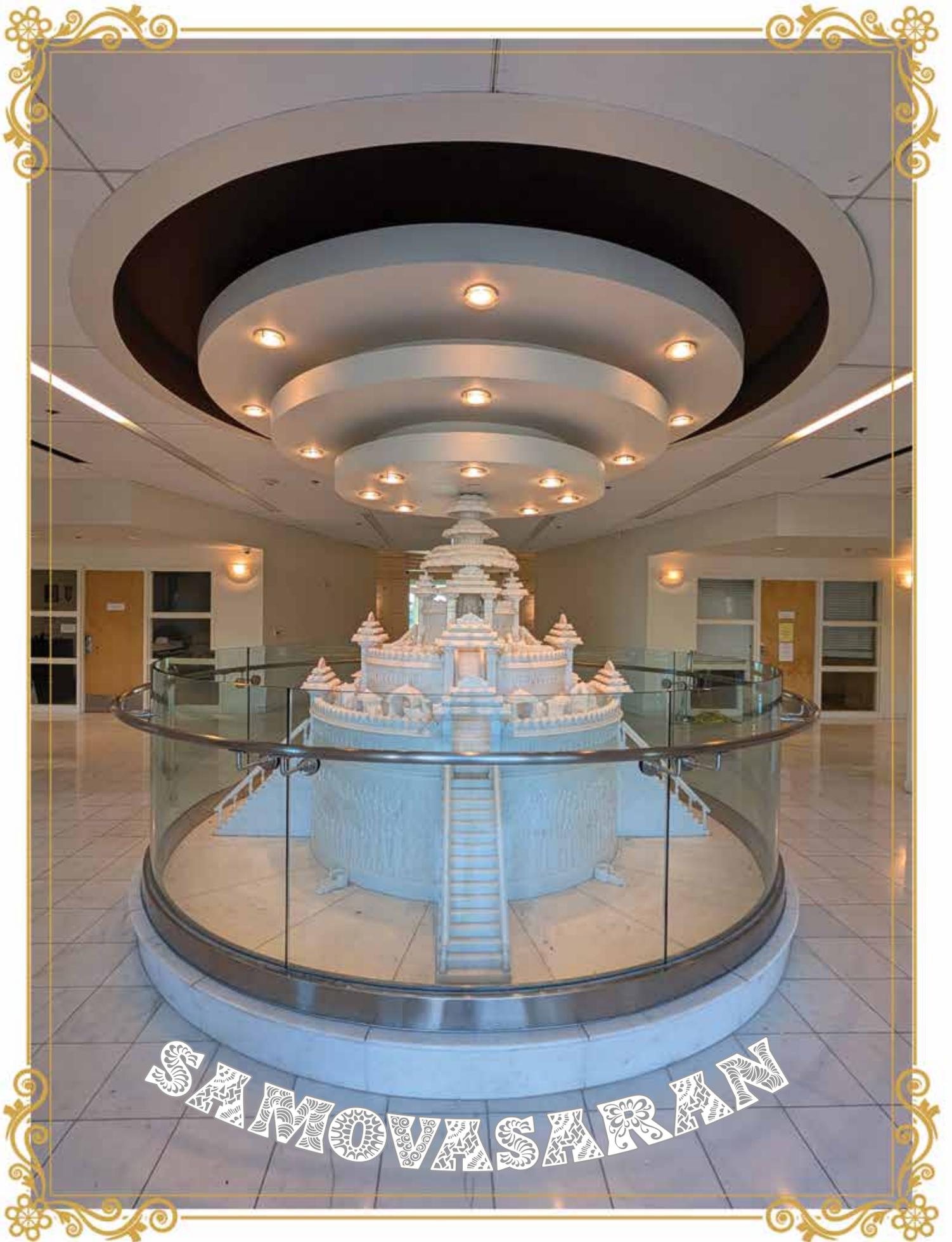
Jain Center of Northern California  
on 25th Anniversary of Jain Bhawan

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Join us in shaping a more just and compassionate world.

To support Arihanta Institute and our mission, please scan the QR code above, or visit our website for donation opportunities.



SHAMOVASARIN

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# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Program

## Day and Date

## Events

Saturday, 12 July 2025

- Abhishek & Dev Shastra Pooja, Snatra Pooja
- Mangal Patrika Lekhan Vidhi

Friday, 25 July 2025

- Abhishek & Dev Shastra Pooja
- Bhaktamar Poojan
- Aadi Veer Bhakti and Ghee Boli
- Kid's Program, Prakrit Language Workshop

Saturday, 26 July 2025

- Abhishek & Dev Shastra Pooja
- Shobha Yatra / Grand Jain Parade
- Navkar & Uvvasaggaharam Jaap
- Lecture & Samapna Jaap (Terapanth), Kid's Program
- Musical Program – Swar Se Ishwar, Prakrit Language Workshop

Sunday, 27 July 2025

- Yag Mandal Vidhan,
- Adhar Abhishek Poojan
- Parshwa-Nem Bhakti and Kumarpal Maharaja Grand Aarti,
- YJA Program, Kid's Program, Prakrit Language Workshop

Monday – Thursday,  
28–31 July 2025

- Abhishek & Dev Shastra Pooja, Snatra Pooja (Tue, Wed)
- Sakrastav Abhishek (Mon) & JCNC ke Nanhe Superstars (Mon)
- Musical Santikaram Abhishek (Thu)
- Prakrit Language Workshop, Lecture Series (Samni ji)
- Shatrunjay na 16 Uddhar and Vadhamana Part I (Wed) & II (Thu)

Friday, 1 August 2025

- Panch Kalyanak Vidhan
- Shri Gautam Swami Labdhi Poojan
- **Bhavna & Dhawaja Ghee Boli from 7:30 pm**

Saturday, 2 August 2025  
(Chabot College)

- Felicitation & Motivational Speaker Session
- Grand Cultural Event - Aastha-Ek Shakti: A celebration of 25 years
- Grand Cultural Event - Ek Lakshaya: A Biopic Drama
- Jain Musical Symphony

Sunday, 3 August 2025

- Dhawaj Pooja, 17 Bhedi Pooja & Procession
- **Dhawaja Ceremony at 12:39 pm**
- Panch Kalyanak Bhakti

Monday, 4 August 2025

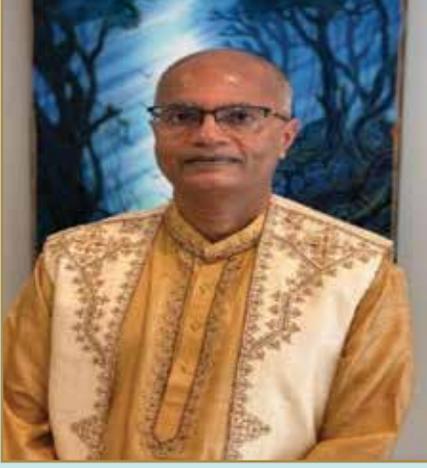
- Dwar Opening
- Abhishek & Dev Shastra Pooja
- Musical Asta Prakari Pooja

Tuesday, 5 August  
2025

- Mahavir Swami Panch Kalyanak Pooja
- Panch Kalyanak Pooja
- Lecture Series

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

*From the Desk of Souvenir Editor – Biren Shah*



सम्यग्दर्शनज्ञानचारित्राणि मोक्षमार्गः ।

*(Right Faith, Right Knowledge, and Right Conduct  
This is the path to liberation.)*

मोक्षमार्गस्य हेतुभूतं धर्मं विद्याः ।

*(Dharma is the cause of the path to liberation.)*

— *Tattvārtha Sūtra 1.1*

As we mark two momentous milestones - the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pran-Pratishtha of our Derasar and Jain Bhawan, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jain Milan, JCNC's predecessor organization - we celebrate not just the passage of time, but the unwavering spirit of our community. A

spirit born from devotion, nourished by seva, and sustained through generations of selfless contributions.

From the day our visionary forebearers consecrated this sacred space, they planted a seed of faith - a home for the Jain Sangh in Northern California where the eternal principles of Ahimsa (nonviolence), Aparigraha (non-possessiveness), and Anekāntavāda (non-absolutism) could thrive. Over a quarter of a century, this Derasar has become more than marble and mortar - it is sanctified daily by nishkam karma: selfless service, quiet devotion, and the purity of intent behind every act.

Our sadhus and sadhvis taught us not only how to perform rituals, but more importantly, why we perform them—with shuddha bhav (pure feelings). As Jain philosophy reminds us:

“न केवल कर्म करना, किंतु शुद्ध भाव से करना आवश्यक है।”

*(It is not enough to act; one must act with pure intention.)*

The theme of Souvenir, “*NexJains – Our Future*”, is both an invitation and a sacred responsibility. To our youth: you inherit more than buildings and scriptures—you inherit the resilience to live ethically, the curiosity to seek truth, and the compassion to serve selflessly, even in an increasingly complex world.

The founders of JCNC envisioned a community centered on leading by example, serving without desire for recognition, and opening the mind to every perspective, just as Anekāntavāda teaches us. These are not just Jain ideals - they are living truths, alive in the heartbeat of our Sangh.

More than anything, we want to take this moment to say Thank You—to our volunteers and their families, who made personal sacrifices and spent countless hours in preparing this Souvenir; to our sponsors, for their generous support; to the advertisers; to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Committees, to the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors, whose trust in me and the Souvenir team and encouragement and guidance made this all possible.

“*Khub Khub Anumodana*” to each and every one of you. This souvenir is dedicated to all the supporters and volunteers of JCNC. Inside these pages, you will find:

- Blessings from revered Jain Acharyas and spiritual leaders
- Reflections from JCNC leaders, past and present
- Felicitations messages from dignitaries and Jain organizations worldwide
- Poems, stories, and essays written by accomplished authors, shala students and Jain youth
- Historical glimpses and archival memories

Each contribution is a testament to what we can achieve when we walk the path of *Samyak Darshan, Gyaan, and Charitra*—with selfless love and boundless faith.

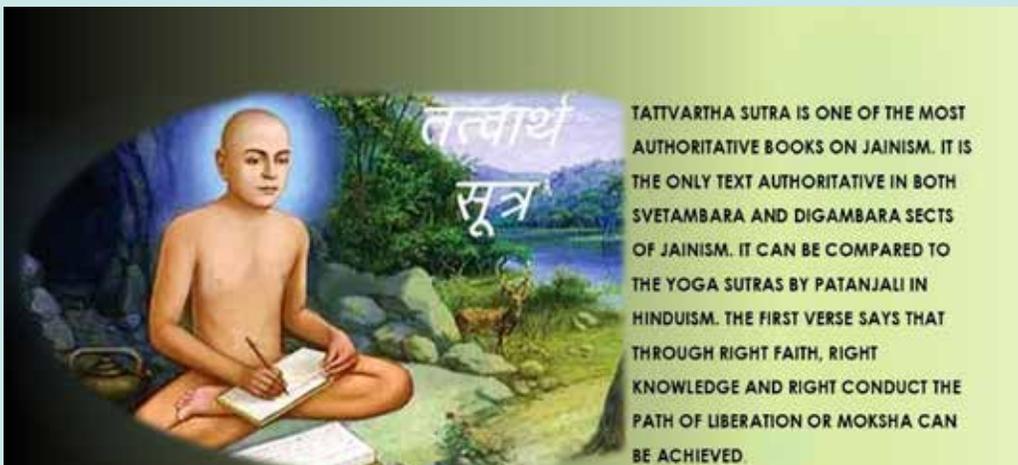
Let this souvenir not just be a celebration of the past, but a compass for the future. To all *NexJains*, may we continue to nurture this *dharmā*, live its values daily, and inspire others by example.

With deep gratitude and humble reverence.

We offer this souvenir in Seva of Jin Shashan.

*Biren Shah, Souvenir Editor and JCNC President (2020-2021)*

*Jai Jinendra!*



## JCNC'S 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY - BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Celebrating 25 Years of Unity, Service, and Growth – And Shaping the Future Together



*Jai Jinendra and Pranam,*

As we mark the incredible milestone of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I find myself reflecting on the immense journey that has brought us here - and looking ahead to the remarkable path we will continue to walk together in the next 25 years. This milestone is not just a reflection of time passed, but a celebration of our collective spirit, dedication & shared purpose.

From our humble beginnings as Jain Milan in 1975, to our formal establishment as JCNC in 1981, and the cherished opening of Jain Bhavan in 2000, every step has been guided by a single, powerful vision: to create a sacred space where Jains from all walks of life, from all traditions, could come together, united in faith, and dedicated to the practice and preservation of the Jain way of life.

At the heart of JCNC lies a unique guiding principle—unity. At JCNC five distinct Jain traditions—Shwetambar, Digambar, Sthanakwasi, Terapanthi, and those inspired by Shrimad Rajchandraji—come together in harmony. Here, we don't just coexist, we flourish. In our temple, we celebrate our shared values while respecting our differences, demonstrating that it is our collective devotion that strengthens our community. Here, under one roof, we unite in our commitment to living by the timeless wisdom of Jainism.

### REFLECTING ON OUR JOURNEY: THE LAST 25 YEARS OF PROGRESS

When we look back, we are awed by the transformation of JCNC. What began with just 30 families has now blossomed into a vibrant community of over 2000 families, representing more than 4000 Jains in the Bay Area. This is not just growth in numbers; it is growth in spirit, in connection, in service, and in the shared commitment to living the Jain way of life.

Over the years, we have come together not only for spiritual milestones and sacred rituals but also to build a community that truly embodies Jain values. Our Pathshala continues to shape the minds and hearts of the next generation, our social gatherings like Picnics, Cricket, and Ras-Garba remind us of the joy and unity we find in our shared culture, and our spiritual programs—MJK, MNK, Cha-Gau Yatra—enrich our souls and deepen our connection to the divine. Our commitment to service—through Jivdaya initiatives, food distribution, and donations to support Jain causes—reminds us that our purpose extends beyond ourselves.

Every milestone has been possible through the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, who give selflessly of their time and energy. Together, we have transformed JCNC into a leading

force in North America—one that is not only a pillar of Jain tradition but also a beacon of compassion, unity, and progress preserving our rich cultural heritage.

### **A VISION FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS: BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH, LEARNING, AND UNITY**

As we look to the future, the next 25 years will be defined by how we prepare for the generations to come. Our greatest responsibility is to ensure that JCNC continues to be a place of sanctuary, learning, and growth for our children and grandchildren. It is our duty to build not just for today, but for a future where Jainism continues to thrive, adapt, and inspire.

In this spirit, we have acquired property close to our temple—a monumental step forward in our growth. This new space will serve as a cornerstone for our future, allowing us to address current needs and lay the foundation for the generations to come. It will not only solve practical concerns like parking, auditorium space, and kitchen facilities, but will also provide an expanded education center and community hub—a place where our children can continue to learn, where families can connect, and where the teachings of Jainism will be passed down with love and devotion.

The vision for the next 25 years is not just about expansion; it is about strengthening the very essence of who we are. It is about creating a living, breathing center for Jainism—a place where the principles of *Ahimsa*, *Aparigraha*, and *Anekāntavāda* are lived daily, where our shared commitment to nonviolence, non-attachment, and multifaceted truth shapes the world around us. We are not just building a community; we are building a legacy of faith, love, and service for generations to come.

### **TOGETHER, WE CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY**

Our story is far from over. Together, we will continue to spread the message of Jainism with one voice, united in our purpose. The legacy we build today will echo through the lives of our children and their children. Our unity will be our strength, our faith will be our guide, and our service will be our offering to the world.

Let us move forward with gratitude for the blessings of the past, determination to meet the challenges of the future, and a collective vision that will shape the next chapter of JCNC's story.

Pranam,

*Mayur Patel*

*Chairman, JCNC Board of 2025*

## JCNC'S 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jai Jinendra and Pranam.

In 2025, it is with immense joy and gratitude that we come together to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pratishtha Mahotsav of our beloved JCNC, and honor 50 years of Jain community service in Northern California. What began as a dream has blossomed into a vibrant spiritual and cultural center for over 1,800 families.

I feel truly honored to serve as President during this milestone year of JCNC.

When I moved to the Bay Area in 1999 and became a Life Member of JCNC, I instantly felt at home! I still remember the energy and devotion of the 2000 Pratishtha Mahotsav, when our first Anjan Shalaka Pratimajis arrived, and our beautiful temple became a shared space for all five Jain traditions. That experience inspired me to start volunteering—and since then, JCNC has been a constant part of my spiritual and personal journey.

Today, I want to share a glimpse of how JCNC continues to thrive—thanks to the incredible teams of volunteers and leaders who make it all possible.

### **A Home for All Traditions**

Our strength lies in unity. The Religious Committee ensures that major events—from Paryushan, Das Lakshan, Ayambils, Chh Gau Yatra, to weekly lectures, Vidhans, and Shrimad Bhakti programs—are inclusive and meaningful to all traditions. Events with 500 to 3,000 participants are now common, and each one is a chance to grow together in Dharma.



### **Nurturing the Next Generation, Right way in the Right path**

Our Education Department runs PaathShala that serves over 550 students, supported by more than 75 dedicated teachers. From learning Jain philosophy, Gujarati, and Hindi, to JAINA Academic Bowl and music classes—our students build both knowledge and character. Their talent shines during celebrations like Mahavir Janma Kalyanak, Nirvan Kalyanak, and Bhasha Day.

### **Culture, Wellness & Connection**

JCNC is more than a temple—it's a vibrant community. From Annual Picnics, Yoga, Wellness sessions, Mission Peak hikes to sports leagues, Blood Drives, health fairs, and Mixers for women and seniors, our Cultural Team curates programs where people of all age groups come together in joy and friendship.



### **Seva Through Food**

One of the greatest joys at JCNC is sharing meals made with love. Our Food Team and volunteers prepare over 60,000 meals a year—from Sunday lunches for Pathshala to Tapasvi meals during religious events. Every dish is prepared with Jain principles in mind, and served with devotion.

**Support Behind the Scene** - Behind every program is a team making it all work:

- The **Finance Team** manages donations, budgets, and audits with care and transparency.
- The **Tech Team** brings JCNC to your screens with live-streamed events and virtual darshan.
- The **Facilities Team** keeps our Bhavan clean, safe, and ready for every occasion.
- The **PR Team** ensures you stay informed and connected—through emails, WhatsApp, and creative outreach.
- The **Private Events Team** helps members and local organizations host meaningful events in our sacred space.
- **PVSA Team** : You are our NextGen team. Watching you serve both JCNC and the broader community brings us deep pride and confidence in our future.



Each of these teams contributes to the smooth running of JCNC—and their quiet commitment deserves our deepest gratitude.

### **Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future**

The scale of JCNC’s activities today is extraordinary. But none of it would be possible without the vision and sacrifice of our founding members and the countless volunteers who built this temple with love, brick by brick. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Khub Khub Anumodna to each and every one of them.

We are also excited to share that JCNC has recently acquired the property next door at **526 South Main Street**. This expansion marks a new chapter in our history—an important step in preparing for the **growing needs of future generations**. It reflects our ongoing commitment to preserve, expand, and evolve the legacy entrusted to us. As we look ahead, JCNC is committed to nurturing the next generation of leaders, and continuing to be a model of worship, service, and unity.

As the Jain Sutra reminds us: “**Gyaan Kriyabhyam Moksha**”—**liberation comes through knowledge and action**. JCNC is a living example of this principle, where learning, seva, and community come together to uplift us all.

Let us celebrate this beautiful milestone together—from **July 25 to August 5, 2025**—with pride in how far we’ve come, and excitement for what lies ahead.

Jainam Jayati Shashanam  
***In Your Seva,***  
***Deven Shah, President, JCNC, 2024–2025***

# JCNC'S 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - CORE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

*Celebrating 25 Glorious Years of JCNC: A Silver Jubilee Mahotsav*



Dear JCNC Sangh,

It is with great joy that I, along with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, warmly welcome you to *JCNC's Silver Jubilee Mahotsav* — *marking 25 years of devotion, unity and community service*. By the divine blessings of Jin Shasan and the guidance of our respected Gurubhagwant, JCNC has grown into a vibrant spiritual and cultural center.

*“An anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday, and the hopes of tomorrow.”*

## HONORING OUR JOURNEY

As we commemorate this incredible 25-year journey, we remember the visionaries who laid JCNC's foundation; the countless volunteers who have served selflessly; and the community members who have nurtured our temple into a spiritual hub.

To mark this special occasion, the Board of Directors formed a dedicated committee to plan and organize the Mahotsav. Planning began in late 2024, and full execution started in January 2025. Focused subcommittees including Religious, Cultural, Media & PR, Fundraising, Technology, Facilities, and Food were created to bring this vision to life with dedication and teamwork.

## MAHOTSAV HIGHLIGHTS

The Mahotsav spans two weekends and offers a vibrant mix of events:

- **Religious Events:** Pujans, Vidhans, Pravachans, Bhakti Bhavna, Jaap, Aangi, Temple decorations and the Grand Dhwaja ceremony.
- **Cultural Programs:** Jain-themed drama, JCNC History showcase, Musical Program, Music, Dance performances and Inspirational speakers
- **Special Features:** Grand Shobha Yatra Parade - a Memorable Jain Symphony, a Commemorative Souvenir Book and a History film capturing JCNC's 25-year journey.

## A TRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY

As we celebrate *JCNC's Silver Jubilee Mahotsav*, we honor not only the achievements of the past 25 years but also the people whose dedication has made this journey possible:

- **To Our Life Members:**

Your continued support and commitment have laid the foundation for our temple's growth and continued success. As a token of our deep appreciation, each life member will receive a personalized Prabhavana gift and a commemorative souvenir book.

- ***To Our Past Board and Executive Committee Members:***

Your vision, leadership, and countless hours of selfless service have shaped JCNC into the vibrant and thriving community it is today. In recognition of your invaluable contributions, every elected official who has served over the past 25 years will be honored with a personalized plaque as a symbol of our sincere gratitude.

- ***To the Entire Sangh:***

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, JCNC was proudly recognized at the **California State Capitol in Sacramento** for its exceptional contributions to the community. This prestigious honor reflects the collective impact of our Sangh throughout the Bay Area. It is a moment of pride and celebration.

## **OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TOGETHER**

The anniversary planning efforts were not without its challenges—from securing venues and finalizing international artist visas, to shipping materials from overseas and managing logistics—all within a limited budget. Despite these hurdles, the passion and dedication of our volunteers turned every challenge into an opportunity to showcase the true strength of our Sangh.

## **GRATITUDE FROM THE HEART**

I sincerely thank all our sponsors—Mahasanghpati, Sanghpati, Promoters, Dwaja Labharthis, Swamivatsalya donors, and everyone who contributed to the religious and general funds. Special thanks to those who made this Souvenir Book meaningful through your articles, wishes, and generous support. To the hundreds of volunteers and leaders your hard work and teamwork made this celebration possible. I'm especially grateful to our Board and Executive Committee for their ongoing support.

On a personal note, serving as the Committee Chair has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Seeing the spirit of seva and unity in our community has been truly inspiring. I'm deeply thankful for the chance to serve during this milestone event, and for the encouragement of so many teammates, mentors, and friends. A heartfelt thank you to my parents for instilling Jain values in me, and to my wife Pooja and our sons, Noam (age 6) and Heom (age 1), for their love, patience, and support throughout this journey.

## **A SACRED REMEMBRANCE AND A VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

This Silver Jubilee is more than a celebration—it is a meaningful remembrance of our past and a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to Jain Dharma, Seva, and Samarpan. Looking ahead, we see JCNC growing as a center for Jain learning, service, and spirituality—led by our youth, grounded in tradition, and welcoming to all. We encourage every Sangh member to stay involved and contribute with tan, man and dhan as we move forward together, united as one community.

In Your Seva,

***Mittal Kothari***

***Committee Chair, JCNC Silver Jubilee Mahotsav***

## RECOGNITION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY & SENATE



*On 9 June 2025 California State Legislature recognized the Jain Center of Northern California for the completion of 50 years of community services (1975-2025) and 25 years of Jain Bhawan (2000-2025).*

*Assemblymember Alex Lee led the recognition on the floor of the Assembly and Senator Dave Cortese led the recognition on the floor of the Senate.*

*Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Liz Ortega, Patrick Ahrens and Dr Darshana Patel joined the felicitation. A 27 member JCNC delegation was present at the California State Capitol, Sacramento.*

## MEMBERS OF JCNC DELEGATION TO CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITOL

Ajay Bhutoria, *Co-host*

Ashok Sethi

Bipin Shah

Biren Shah, *Co-host and emcee*

Deven Shah

Girish Shah

Hasmukh Patel

Hasu Shah

Jashvant Shah

Kamlesh Mehta

Kirit Bavishi

Kundi Kapadia

Manhar Shah

Mayur Patel

Mittal Kothari

Nayan Jain

Nitin Shah

Parag Shah

Parveen Jain

Pravin Turakhia

Prem Jain

Ritesh Patani

Shobha Vora

Srenik Mehta

Sudhanshu Jain

Vipul Kothari

Yogesh Bapna



ii Jainam Jayati Shasanam ii  
JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

State Capitol Reception  
by the California State Legislature  
Monday 9 June 2025

JCNC  
*Delegation Pictures*

11 A.M. State Assembly Floor  
11:20 A.M. Leave Assembly Floor for Capitol Room 317

*Capitol Room 317*

From 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Opening Remarks  
Elected Officials Welcome and Introduction  
Invocation of Namokar Mantra  
Lighting of Lamp  
Elected Officials address to JCNC Delegation  
JCNC Delegation Welcome by Elected Officials  
Presentation of Proclamation (Joint Resolution - Certificate)  
Closing Remarks and Thank You

*Lunch*

From 12:30 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. lunch served in Capitol Room 317

*Assembly Floor*

From 1:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Guests Introduction and Recognition led by Assemblymember Alex Lee  
JCNC Delegation seated in Assembly Visitors' Gallery to view the Session

*Senate Floor*

From 2:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Guests Introduction and Recognition led by Senator Dave Cortese  
JCNC Delegation seated in Senate Visitors' Gallery to view the Session

*Group Photo*

2:00 P.M. In front of Capitol Building



Scan Qr for link  
to Youtube of the  
Recognition on  
the floor of the  
California Senate



Scan Qr for link to  
Youtube of the  
Recognition on the  
floor of the  
California Assembly



*Acharya Padmasagarsuri*  
॥ ॐ अहम् ॥

दिनांक : 26-03-2025

**-: मंगल कामना :-**

मुझे यह जानकर अतीव प्रसन्नता हुई है कि जैन सेन्टर ऑफ नोर्थन कैलिफोर्निया, मिलीटास, अमेरिका की पुण्यधरा पर निर्मित आदिनाथ प्रभु व पार्श्वनाथ प्रभु के मन्दिर की प्रतिष्ठा की रजत जयन्ती महा-महोत्सव का सुन्दर आयोजन किया जा रहा है। यह समस्त जैन समाज के लिए गौरव का विषय है।

परमात्मा श्री आदिनाथ भगवान की प्रतिष्ठा के बाद नोर्थन कैलिफोर्निया संघ का बहुत ही सुन्दर विकास हुआ है, साथ ही जैनसंघ की भी सुन्दर अभिवृद्धि हुई है। कैलिफोर्निया जैसी विदेशी भूमि पर जैन समाज के सभी सम्प्रदायों के सहयोग से निर्मित व प्रतिष्ठित भव्य जिनालय आप सभी को शान्ति, स्वास्थ्य, समृद्धि व ऐश्वर्य आदि प्रदान कर रहा है तथा भविष्य में भी इसी तरह से धर्म भावना की अभिवृद्धि होती रहे, ऐसी शुभकामना है।

मन्दिर हमारी संस्कृति के प्रतीक हैं एवं मानसिक शान्ति प्राप्त करने के उत्तम स्थान हैं। प्रभु-भक्ति, परमात्मा की पूजा-स्तुति-कीर्तन आदि पूर्वोपार्जित अशुभ कर्मों को क्षय करने का श्रेष्ठ साधन हैं। साथ ही इनसे अशुभ विचारों का शुद्धिकरण भी होता है। जिनमन्दिर पुण्यानुबंधी पुण्य का जन्मस्थान है। शुद्ध भावना से की गई जिनेश्वरदेव की भक्ति कभी निष्फल नहीं होती है।

Page 1 of 2

Shri Mahavir Jain Aradhana Kendra Koba-382426, Gandhinagar  
☎ 079-23276204/5 Fax:079-23276249 @ koba3rh@yahoo.com ☎ +91 97266 17570



11-31-12-2024

जैन सेन्टर ऑफ नोर्थन कैलिफोर्निया  
मिलीटास संघ योग धर्मलाल  
डेव-032-धर्म कृपाधी आपने  
एसा जिल्लवचयुनीली एएआदिनाथ  
नी आवा रही है-रय आ रजतजयन्ति  
निमित्त आपना संघमां एएएली धन  
लहेराओ-जे समस्तपिखना खबोने  
लाला लहेर करवे-तभारे त्यानो  
आ प्रसन्न भूल धाम धूम न्नाये  
अत्यंत शासनप्रलापड जने जेरीने  
समस्त संघ भूल कृत्यना उल्लस  
साथे कोडाय ओके अल्लपूर्व  
अहोत्साव बिरसभरलीअ जने  
अनेके ने जैन शासन प्रत्ये  
जनुमान लाय जियण करे जेवी  
अनेकेनेके सुलझामना सहे  
आ. पुंडरी करण रयि

PARAM  
GURUDEV

Bhadrachari Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb



Devanupriyo,

A legacy is built when every heart and every soul thrives in unity, mutual-sadbhava and ootmiyata.

As the Jain Center of Northern California completes 25 glorious years of Prabhu Bhakti and devotion, I express my heartfelt blessings to each one of you whose love for Parmatma has become a link in the chain that is bringing forward this legacy today.

Today, it's not just a Jain Center that is completing 25 years; it is breathing life into Jin Shasan for 25 more years, to extend its lifespan and take it forward for 21,000 years.

May your efforts for Jin Shasan Bhakti, Seva and Samarpanta continue uninterrupted with utmost enthusiasm, for generations to come.

शुभं भवतु:

Blessings,  
-Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb

paramgurudev100@gmail.com  
paramgurudev.org | paramdham.org | ParamdhamTV | Paramdham



(A Charitable and Non-profit Organisation)  
 Dapur, Dharam, Navsari-362110, Dist. Navsari  
 Gujarat-388140, India. Phone: 917922222291  
 Email: veerayatan@veerayatan.org | Website: www.veerayatan.org

ॐ  
अहं

दिनांक - 16.04.2025

**जैन सेंटर ऑफ नॉर्टन कैलिफोर्निया।**

**आत्मपिय प्रमुख एवं सदस्यगण।**

आनीर्त्तद।

अहो परमात्म्या के असीम कृपापूर्ण आशीर्वाद बरसते हैं। जहाँ विपश्चान्ति एवं विश्र्वमंगल के स्वर सदैव गूँजते हैं। जो ऊँजापूर्ण प्रेरक शीर्ष है, उसे जिनमन्दिर का आपने निर्माण किया जो जैन समाज की शान्तिप्रियता एवं जन-मंगल के कार्यों के प्रतीक है। आज आप गौरवमय उन्नत जयंति महीास्यद मना रहे हैं।

हादिक प्रसन्नता।

भगवान महावीर का अप्रतीम सन्देश- 'जो अतिम देसना 'उत्तराख्यधन सुत्र' में है- 'समाहि उपायया' समाधि उत्पादक बनो इसे स्मरण करके, आप निरंतर समाधि पैदा करनेवाले बनाने का प्रयास करेंगे।

मुझे विश्र्वास है, आपका अपना सेंटर सर्वोत्तम कल्याणकारी कार्य करते हुए समाधि भाव को विसर देगा।

मेरा आशीर्वाद सदैव आप सबके साथ है।

*आचार्य चन्दना*

आचार्य चन्दना \* श्री ताईमो \*

वीरयतन

\* Registered under Section 12C, Income Tax Act, 1961. \* Registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1961. \* Approved for Registration of the Status for submitting CSR Activities. \* Income Tax Exemption till 31.03.2025. IT No. 19VTDG628P/03M43003-23

श्री सनातन जैन धर्म  
**श्रीमद् राजचंद्र आश्रम, अगास**  
 अगास रोड, पोस्ट-बोर्ड  
 न. पेल्लार, डि. अरावली - 308 130 (Guj.)

Shri Sanatan Jain Dharma  
**Shrimad Rajchandra Ashram, Agas**  
 Station Agas, Post-Borda,  
 Ta. Pellar, Dist. Aravali - 308 130 (Guj.)

Mo: 70695 53000, 70695 54000 • Trust Reg. No. A 675 AMAAG • E-mail: info@agasadfram.org

Date : 10/03/2025

Jain Center of Northern California,  
 722 S Main St, Milpitas,  
 California

Dear JCNC Committee/Board Members,

We extend our warmest congratulations on JCNC's 25th Anniversary and gratitude for selecting Shrimad Rajchandra Ashram, Agas to perform the consecration ceremony.

We deeply appreciate JCNC's unwavering support and accommodation to the followers of Shrimad Rajchandra, providing a sacred space for our Aaradhna and spiritual pursuits.

Your inclusive approach, embracing diverse Jain traditions, fosters unity within the Jain community.

As a community of mumukshus following Shrimad Rajchandra's teachings, we thank JCNC's leadership for fostering a harmonious environment.

We introduce ourselves as Shrimad Rajchandra Ashram, Agas established by Laguraj Swami over 100 years ago. Notably, our revered leader Prabhushriji, despite being entrusted with propagating Vitrag Dharma, humbly acknowledged Shrimad Rajchandraji as his Pratyaksh Guru, exemplifying humility and devotion.

Your approach of supporting the true venture inspired my first and last visit to America, despite my personal reluctance to travel abroad.

Sincerely,

For, Shri Sanatan Jain Dharma  
 Shrimad Rajchandra Ashram,  
*Parasbhai Jain*

Managing Trustee  
 Parasbhai Jain,  
 Managing Trustee,



अहंम्

3 अप्रैल 2025

धर्म यह तत्त्व है, जिसके द्वारा आत्मा भी शुद्ध होती है। जैन शास्त्र दसकैआलिय में कहा गया है- धर्मो मंगलमुक्तिद, अहिंसा राजगो तयो। अहिंसा, संयम और तप धर्म हैं। जैन आगमों में हमें धर्म की व्याख्या मिलती है। जैन धर्म के अनुयायी भारत में तो हैं ही, भारत के बाहर भी रहते हैं।

परम पूज्य आचार्य तुलसी के समय जैन श्वेताम्बर तेरापंथ में समणश्रेणी का उद्भव हुआ। समणश्रेणी के सदस्य भारत में भी कार्य करते हैं और भारत के बाहर अमेरिका आदि देशों में भी धर्म प्रभावना का कार्य करते हैं। विदेश में रहने वाले जैन समाज के लोगों को भी समणियों के विदेश में होने वाले प्रवास से लाभ मिलता है।

ज्ञात हुआ कि जैन सेंटर ऑफ नदर्न कैलीफोर्निया अपना पच्चीसवां वर्ष मना रहा है। यह सेंटर आध्यात्मिक-धार्मिक उन्नति करता रहे। जैन समाज के बच्चों में भी धार्मिक ज्ञान का विकास और अच्छे संस्कारों का सृजन होता रहे। बच्चों के सिवाय अन्य जैन लोग भी धार्मिक साधना करते रहें, नयकार मंत्र जप, सामाजिक, उपवास, स्वाध्याय, ध्यान आदि के द्वारा आध्यात्मिक विकास करते रहें। मंगलकामना।

गुजरात, भारत

आचार्य महाश्रमण

**जैन श्वेताम्बर तेरापंथी महासभा**

अचान सदाशिव-3, पंचगुणीय चर्च स्ट्रीट, कोलकाता-700 001 दूरभाष : (033) 2238-7566 2254 5568 फ़ैक्स : 2234 3668  
 विश्वि कार्यालय संपर्क पुर - 07044448888 Email - office@terapanth.com





॥ श्री गौरीजी परमेश्वर नमः ॥ ॥ श्री गुरु, श्री गुरु कुण्ड-नमस्तु ॥  
 महात्माजीय प्रखर सतिवि कर्तव्यवाक्य, प.पू. महात्माजीयि आचार्य भगवान्  
**श्री विजय अभयदेवसूरीश्वरजी महाराजा**  
 शंजोषधरलीयः (मस्लाभरभांटे २

ता. १८-२-२५  
 श्री गौरी सेन्टर ओई फेली फोनीया U.S.A.  
 श्री गौरी संघ समस्तः धर्मलाल  
 श्री संघ सं २००० नी सालमां आदिनाथगु  
 गिनालयनी मलिच्छाकरावी शंग युग-सेधा  
 अने मनुमान्ज करता २५ वर्ष भूमिफेरी रल्याछे  
 एधारे गिनालयनी धर्मगांठ (इधमरोडभा)  
 भूतन उल्यासधा करी करावा युवायानुं गंधीभुल्य  
 उपार्जन करे अने मंगल आशिर्वादि  
 भारतमां माहरेयलनची भाता-घिता  
 उरा मजेली सुसंस्थारो अने सद्गुणमाणी  
 प्रेरणा लध उमंगरक्षयिछे अने धान  
 अनुभवेनाथछे  
 धर्मलाल आचार्य



**Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti**

'World Peace Center'  
 Ahimsa, Section 39  
 Gurgaon, Haryana - 122002  
 (India)  
 'Acharya Lokesh Ashree'  
 A.S.V. Old Rajinder Nagar  
 Near Kirti Bhugh Mansi Bazaar  
 New Delhi - 110 006 (India)

**JAINISM FOR WORLD PEACE AND HARMONY**

Jainism emphasizes compassion, love and justice as essential for fostering unity, primarily through the principle of ahimsa (non-violence). This principle extends to all living beings, advocating for compassion, kindness, and the avoidance of harm. It cultivates a sense of interconnectedness and respect for all life. Jainism promotes a harmonious society where equality and justice prevail.

Jain religion centered on Bhagwan Mahavira's philosophy becomes more relevant to present world where problems like war, violence, global warming, environmental degradation, economic exploitation and inequality are rising. This philosophy can solve many contemporary social, environmental, and economic problems. Solution to global challenges are contained in the three As of Jainism i.e. Ahimsa, Anekant and Apegraha of Bhagwan Mahavira as our guiding principles.

Bhagwan Mahavira doctrines of Shatjanikay exhort human beings to exercise utmost care in consuming natural resources and to desist from polluting the environment. Bhagwan Mahavira's teachings are in consonance with the need to mitigate economic disparity. He preached that both non-availability and excess availability are dangerous. The concentration of wealth in the hands of a few is one of the causes for growing intolerance. Bhagwan Mahavira realized that differences in individual capabilities and needs exist. He preached social ahimsa comprising compassion, equanimity, love and tolerance to encourage his followers to focus on their own betterment by letting others also achieve the same.

It becomes very important for different Jain traditions to come together on one platform to promote and preach Jainism to make this world a better place to live in. I congratulate The Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) the premier Jain institution in North America for bringing all Jain followers together. Inspired by Shrimad Rajchandraji the JCNC Jain Bhawan is uniting all Jains the Shwetambar, Digambar, Sthanakwasies, Terapanthies under one roof. JCNC is an inspiration for all Jains worldwide to unite and work together for peace and harmony.

Heartiest blessings for 25th Anniversary of Jain temple at Milpitas CA and for publishing a memorable Souvenir Book on the occasion. I extend my good wishes to JCNC for their dedicated work to spread the message of World Peace, Harmony and Jain Unity in different parts of the world.

World Peace Centre established by Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti in India aims to bring peace initiatives from all over the world on one platform. Peace Education, Moral education, Environment Protection and Preservation, Equality and Equal Distribution of Recourses, Engagement in Peace Building Processes, Awareness towards Jain Lifestyle and Strong Institutional network for Peace and Harmony programs will be conducted from here.

Om Arham  
**Acharya Lokesh**  
 IIII Jain Acharya Lokesh  
 Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti and World Peace Centre,  
 Visit us at: [www.ahimsavishwabharti.org](http://www.ahimsavishwabharti.org)

+91 11 43172802 +91 982146296 ahimsa@ahimsa@gmail.com www.ahimsavishwabharti.org  
 @ahimsabharti ahimsavishwabharti2794 acharyalokeshahimsa acharyalokeshji

॥ श्री गौरीजी परमेश्वर नमः ॥  
 अभिनन्दन तीर्थोद्घाटक प.पू. आचार्य श्रीमद् विजय गजेंद्रसूरीश्वरजी महारा, के आशीर्वाद परमेश्वरवाक्य  
 महात्माजीयि-मुक्ताम तीर्थोद्घाटक प.पू. आचार्य श्रीमद् विजय गजेंद्रसूरीश्वरजी महारा.  
 ता. १८-४-२५  
 गौरी सेन्टर ओई फेली फोनीया.  
 मिल्पीटाम अमेरिका.  
 धर्मलाल आचार्य  
 कानंठमां एधारे तमारा कानंठ मंगलनी  
 डोगना करता अने शाला छे.  
 विदेरामां रडीनेपल स्वधर्मने मंगल  
 राधवाकं डार्ध विमिओ प्रसारनी प्रेषाकरे  
 मेधा नी शायरयता रहेली छे.  
 धर्म नी काराधना करवाली सरववा  
 धर्ममेधायो ना करले मारवाली जे  
 छे या स्थानमां काराधना नो पावो मंगल  
 शैने २५ वर्ष पसार धर्मप्रकाश के शानंठो  
 विषय वने छे. मिकवर म्युजाला मठिभरनी  
 करवा के विचारवाकं के कमाई मयन मिकर  
 ना लेकु प्रेत अने गरुडकु वने छे  
 परमहृपाल परमात्मामे प्रार्थना करवाली  
 की काराधना स्थानमां लघुनेलधु  
 काराधनाओ वाम 'देव पर्वत' ह्या  
 परमात्मामे प्रार्थना  
 लक्ष्मी  
 श्रीमद् विजय गजेंद्रसूरीश्वरजी महारा



THE ART OF LIVING



*Jain philosophy has always upheld ahimsa and vegetarianism, principles that are deeply relevant to our world today. May the compassionate message of Mahavir and all the Tirthankars reach those in need across our troubled planet.*

With love and blessings,  
**Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**

**SADHGURU-JAGGI-VASUDEV**



*Namaskaram,*

*My heartiest congratulations and blessings to each one of you on the 25th anniversary of the Jain Center of Northern California.*

*On this day, let us remember that the world is not a globe. The world is its people. Without peaceful human beings, there is no peaceful society, nation or world because what you see in the world is just a larger manifestation of what is happening in human minds. Unless we create peaceful human beings, there cannot be a peaceful world.*

*To create an individual who is peaceful, you need to be a Mahavir. That means you must have the courage to tackle the basis of violence within yourself. If you look at yourself, how many moments in a day can you not stand the person next to you. You trying to hold yourself back is going to work only for a certain period of time; somewhere it is bound to explode. So, in our day-to-day lives, we need a culture of peace – how human beings can maintain their bodies, minds, emotions and energy in a state of peacefulness.*

*As there is a science and technology to create external wellbeing, there is a whole science and technology to create inner wellbeing. As we have engineered the world the way we want it, it is equally important that we engineer our interiority the way we want it to be. This is what Yoga is about.*

*It is time we all focus our efforts in this direction because In is the only way Out. Let us make it happen.*

Blessings,  
Sadhguru



**HH MAHANT SWAMI MAHARAJ**  
(Swami Keshavjivandas)

7 March 2025  
Sydney, Australia

Shri Birenbhai Shah,  
Jain Center of Northern California

Pranam.  
Jai Swaminarayan.

HH Mahant Swami Maharaj was pleased to learn about the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Jain temple at the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC). He has prayed to Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Pramukh Swami Maharaj that this milestone brings spiritual upliftment, unity, and continued devotion to dharma for all members of the Jain community.

JCNC's efforts in preserving and nurturing Jain traditions while fostering harmony among diverse practices are truly commendable. Such endeavors strengthen the values of faith, non-violence, and righteousness, which serve as guiding principles for society. May Bhagwan bless this occasion with success, and may all attendees be inspired to deepen their spiritual journey and uphold their cherished values.

Prayers are offered that the commemorative celebrations and interfaith outreach initiatives further promote peace and understanding. May Bhagwan bestow strength and wisdom upon all who contribute to this noble cause.

With innermost prayers for peace, prosperity, and progress.

Jai Swaminarayan from Sadhu Shrutipriyadas for HH Mahant Swami Maharaj.

*Sadhu Keshavjivandas*

Jai Swaminarayan from Sadhu Keshavjivandas  
(HH Mahant Swami Maharaj, Spiritual Head, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha)

B.A.P.S. Swaminarayan Mandir, Shahibaug Road, Ahmedabad - 380 004, Gujarat, India  
Email: letters@in.baps.org • www.baps.org



### Bhupendra Patel

Chief Minister, Gujarat State.

Dt. 25-03-2025

#### Message

India, among all cultures, has one of the oldest histories in advocating intentional or unintentional non-violence. Kindness and compassion are the factors that have been woven in our lives. Being a social animal there is a sense of common humanity that unites people of all nations. Humanity leads us to be spiritual and our spirit allows us to be a human. Spiritual discourses leads people to embrace true humanity. Each life is immensely valuable to the concerned people, regardless of the circumstances and there is no word to adequately convey a human being's existence.

I am much pleased to learn that Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) is pursuing to provide each Jain tradition their own spiritual space to practice their own way in order to strengthen and enhance greater Harmony and Unity among all its members. I am delighted to learn that this year marks the 25th Anniversary of Jain Temple at Milpitas CA and a two-week long celebrations from 25th July to 5th August, 2025 are being organized at Milpitas CA, USA. It is heartening to learn that as a part of the multi-facet celebrations a Souvenir Book is being published to mark the Silver Jubilee of JCNC. I hereby convey my best wishes to Team-JCNC including all its volunteers and stakeholders for the success of the multi layered event and for the memorable Souvenir.

  
(Bhupendra Patel)

Shree Birenbhai Shah,  
Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC),  
722, South Main Street, Milpitas, Ca 95035 USA.  
Mob. +1 408 206 9049

Agnishob2023@0255



भारत का पश्चिम मंत्रालय  
CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA  
San Francisco



#### Message

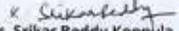
Dear Members of the Jain Center of Northern California,

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Jain Center of Northern California on your 25th Anniversary.

This remarkable milestone reflects your unwavering dedication in fostering unity and promoting Jain values of non-violence, compassion, and service within the community.

As a Consul General, I commend your efforts in advancing interfaith understanding and cultural diversity.

Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone.

  
Dr. Srikr Reddy Koppula

21 मई/मय गेट, सॉफ्टवेयर 1, सॅनफ्रॅन्सिस्को (कैलि) 94103 | फोन: (415) 891-4090 | फैक्स: (415) 891-1251  
71 Sanson Street San Francisco, CA 94103 USA | Tel: +1 415-868-0662 | Fax: +1 415-891-1264  
Website: www.ignif.com | Email: ignif@ignif.com

|| श्री जयिदास गण || || श्री चक्रवर्ती के मम || || श्री शक्तिश्री दुर्गा मम ||



### ओम शांति ट्रस्ट

ट्रस्ट रजि. नं. 246 दि. 4/04/1997 इंडिया

भारता चक्र के पीछे, खोटी रोड, पालीवला - 364 270 वि. चक्रवर्त (सौमद्र) गुजरात  
भारतभार्थ (मैनेजर) - 9375861523 E-mail: omshantitrust@gmail.com



दि. 21.3.2025  
महाशिव (गौरव)

जैन सौमद्र ओम गार्गन केसीओरिना  
मिलिटियस (पु.एस.ए.)

समस्त ट्रस्ट मंडल

सादर सभ त्रिनेत्र पूर्णक प्रणाम / जय कुमार्त सदाशरवतु!

मिल ट्रस्ट में हम की रहे है देवकन का बढ़ता बढ़ता ही जा रहा है.. कैलाश ही जा रहा है तो हम आदित्य शक्ति को कैसे पाने.. तो एक ही रास्ता है भगवद् पथिक आप आस्था को देखे. आस्था टैकन को कैसे पूरु हटाती है। ऐसे ही परमात्मा की भक्ति सचस्य आपके बहुरं 25 वर्ष पूर्व भवत जिन मंदिर का निर्माण हुआ।

मुझे यह जानकारी प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि एक मंदिर की प्रतिष्ठा की 25वीं वर्षगांठ (रजत जयंती) आपके संघ मनाने जा रहा है। सकल समाज मिलकर 25 वर्षों से परमात्मा की भक्ति कर रहा है, उसी पुण्य प्रथाक से बहुरं पर विशाल जैन समुदाय विद्यालय है। यह आपके संघ का गर्व है प्रति अहोभाव है तभी ऐसे अवसर आते है।

आज से 25 वर्ष पूर्व आपके विद्यालय में प्रतिष्ठित श्री जयिदास गणु की जन्मशताका पुणे में संपन्न हुई थी तभी से मुझे आपके संघ में जुड़ने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ एवं विद्यालय की प्रतिष्ठा, व्यवहारस्य की प्रतिष्ठा एवं जनेकों वार परमात्मा की वर्षगांठ (सदाशरवतु) के अवसर पर उपस्थित रहकर विभि विद्याम कराने का शौचाग्य मिला, जिसकी स्मृति आज भी मन को आनंदित करती है।

आपके संघ द्वारा आयोजित रजत जयंती का यह भव्य कार्यक्रम सौमद्र सभ से सम्पन्न हो। यह महाशिवस्य आपके आस्थाओं के कल्याण का कारण बने यही सुभेच्छा।

पुन: रजत जयंती की हार्दिक बधाई

आपका  
मनोजकुमार टाटस

Bank Details : Om Shanti Trust  
A/c No. 07630100019557.

Bank of Baroda, ERODE (Branch)  
IFSC # BARSOERODEX.

RO KHANNA  
17th District - California

COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
EMPLOYMENT, AND CAPITAL  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC POLICY

COMMITTEE ON  
TERRITORY AND CONSTITUTION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORY  
AND CONSTITUTION

Subcommittee on Resources, Innovation

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0517

1117 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20515  
OFFICE: (202) 225-2471  
FAX: (202) 225-6888

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE  
4111 16th St., NW, Room 342  
Northwest, DC 20037  
PHONE: (202) 225-1111  
http://rokhanna.gov

April 18, 2025

Dear Members of the Jain Center of Northern California,

I am writing to extend my sincerest felicitations and best wishes to the Jain Bhawan and in celebration of your 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Thank you greatly for your contributions to not just the diverse Jain communities across the Bay Area, but also to the broader Northern California community in general. Your temple stands as both a spiritual home to thousands, and a beacon of peace and compassion that uplifts our Noct'ral community.

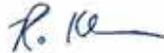
Over the years, the Jain Bhawan temple has served as representation for the standard of educational, humanitarian, and community efforts. Through charitable events, advocating for interfaith dialogue, and encouraging the youth to pursue their education, the Jain Bhawan temple has done an exceptional job in uniting our community. Your dedication to community wellbeing has not gone unnoticed, it is an honor to recognize 25 excellent years of selflessness and continuous improvements.

I commend your leaders, volunteers, and members for all their hard work in fostering an environment that has such a profound impact. Initiatives such as your Senior Activities and The President's Volunteer Service Award especially stand out to me - I respect and encourage the importance of uplifting those who are so often forgotten.

Again, please accept my congratulations and continued support for the JCNC. Looking back from the start of the temple in year 2000, there have already been countless achievements since then, and I am truly excited to see what is in store for the JCNC in the future.

Best wishes to all those involved at The Jain Center of Northern California!

Sincerely,



Representative Ro Khanna  
California's 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District



ALEX PADILLA  
(CA-20th)

(202) 224-2811  
alex@alexpadilla.com

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20540

COMMITTEE  
BLOCK7  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
AUXILIARY  
POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION

July 25, 2025

Jain Center of Northern California  
Milpitas, CA

RE: Congratulatory Letter for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Dear Members of the Jain Center of Northern California,

Congratulations on celebrating 25 years of service to the nearly 5000+ Jain communities across the San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California.

The unique spirit embodied by the Jain Bhawan, unifying the five Jain Traditions under one roof, promotes diversity by providing each with a spiritual space to practice in their own way, enhancing harmony and unity among members. Your commitment to humanitarian and community efforts through hosting cultural and charitable events, as well as engaging youth and encouraging their educational pursuits, is admirable. I wish you all the very best as you continue your work in the community for years to come.

Your proven results are deeply appreciated and commended. Congratulations!



Sincerely,



ALEX PADILLA  
United States Senator

SAM T. LICARDO  
19th District - California

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0516

1117 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20515-0516  
202.225.4888

May 8, 2025

Jain Center of Northern California  
722 South Main Street  
Milpitas, California 95035

Dear Members of the Jain Center of Northern California,

Congratulations on celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jain Bhawan!

This milestone is a testament to your tireless commitment to the local Jain community and your meaningful contributions to the broader society — through your cultural events, educational programs and dedication to bringing people together. Your efforts have fostered greater understanding, unity, and enrichment across communities and the five Jain traditions.

The Center's dedication to the core Jain principles of non-violence and compassion is a powerful example for all. These values are not only foundational to your faith but also model how we can all lead with integrity and empathy. I am inspired by your mission and will carry these ideals with me in my work in Washington, D.C.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. I'm excited to see what the next 25 years will bring.

Sincerely,



Sam Licardo  
Member of Congress



STATE CAPITOL  
 P.O. BOX 900808  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95830-0008  
 (916) 319-2024  
 FAX (916) 319-2124

DISTRICT OFFICE  
 1133 NORTH MILPITAS BOULEVARD, SUITE 200  
 MILPITAS, CA 95035  
 (408) 262-2501  
 FAX (408) 262-2512



COMMITTEES  
 CHIEF, HUMAN SERVICES  
 BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1  
 ON HUMAN SERVICES  
 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
 DEVELOPMENT  
 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT



July 25, 2025

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) on its remarkable 25th anniversary. It is truly a milestone worth celebrating, and I am honored to recognize your organization for its significant contributions to our community.

As the State Assemblymember for California's 24th Assembly District, I am deeply proud of the diverse and vibrant community we share, and I am especially grateful for the presence of JCNC. Since its founding in August 2000, JCNC has served as a spiritual, cultural, and educational beacon for the Jain community, enriching the lives of countless individuals and families.

For 25 years, JCNC has been a sanctuary where the core values of Jainism—non-violence, compassion, and mindfulness—are practiced and cherished. It offers a space for reflection and spiritual growth, providing opportunities for worship, devotion, and a deeper connection to Jain dharma. The commitment of those who have contributed to the center's success is truly inspiring.

Throughout the years, JCNC has been a hub of unity, hosting religious ceremonies, cultural events, and educational programs that foster inclusivity and a sense of belonging for all generations. I had the pleasure of hosting Jain community members from across the state at the California State Capitol last year to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti—a reflection of the strong community bonds that JCNC nurtures.

Once again, congratulations to the Jain Center of Northern California on this incredible achievement. Please feel free to reach out to my office at (408) 262-2501 should I be of any assistance to you or your members in the future.

Sincerely,

Alex Lee,  
 Assemblymember, 24<sup>th</sup> District

SENATE  
 CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



DAVE CORTESE  
 CALIFORNIA SENATE 15<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



Capitol Office  
 1021 O Street, Suite 7520  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
 Phone: (916) 651-4015

District Office  
 1155 Meridian Avenue, Suite 100  
 San Jose, CA 95125  
 Phone: (408) 723-4154  
[Senator.cortese@senate.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.cortese@senate.ca.gov)  
[www.sd15.senate.ca.gov](http://www.sd15.senate.ca.gov)

Greetings to attendees and congratulations to the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) on this momentous occasion of JCNC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

I commend the Jain Center of Northern California for promoting "Unity in Diversity" by providing a welcoming space where Jain community members with different traditions may come together to worship and deepen their understanding of the Jain dharma, and for its lasting contributions to the Bay Area's cultural, spiritual, and community life.

The Jain Center of Northern California's dedication to the principles of nonviolence, compassion, and service continue to serve as an inspiration. I am deeply grateful for the positive impact the JCNC's efforts have on the lives of residents in my district and throughout Northern California.

Sincerely,

Senator Dave Cortese, 15<sup>th</sup> District



City of Milpitas  
 455 E. Calaveras Blvd.  
 Milpitas, California 95035



18 April 2025

To,  
 Biren Shah, Media-PR Head  
 Jain Center of Northern California, Milpitas

Dear Friends,  
 Greetings to all of you at Jain Center of Northern California as you come together for the grand celebrations of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jain Bhawan and Temple here in Milpitas. This is a very special moment for all of us.

Our places of worship are very important institutions in the City of Milpitas. Although it is vitally important that a city grows economically, it is equally important that a community grows spiritually. I have always believed that an ideal city can match its financial success with a population that perpetuates good values and encourages conduct that is moral, uplifting and courageous. I wish to especially commend all of the volunteers who have contributed to the successful thriving of the Jain Temple over the past twenty-five years. I commend the success of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. This Center is an asset to this community in providing religious and language education, interfaith conferences and religious, social and cultural celebrations.

Thank you for the good deeds you are performing for our community. I wish you the very best and welcome your civic involvement in the City of Milpitas.

Sincerely yours,

Carmen Montano  
 Mayor  
 City of Milpitas, California

S T A T E O F C A L I F O R N I A



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

**Jain Center of Northern California**  
*In recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the Jain Temple in Milpitas, I commend the Jain Center of Northern California for its lasting contributions to the Bay Area's cultural, spiritual, and community life. Your dedication to the principles of nonviolence, compassion, and service continues to inspire.*

Senator Dave Cortese  
 August 2, 2025

**Jain Center of Southern California**

Date: April 21, 2025



From: Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC)  
8072 Commonwealth Ave  
Buena Park, CA 90621

Pranam and Jai Jinendra to the entire JCNC Sangh Parivar, our cherished brothers and sisters,

On behalf of the Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC), it is with immense joy and heartfelt admiration that we extend our warmest congratulations to the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) on the momentous occasion of your 25th anniversary.

This silver jubilee is not just a celebration of time, but a tribute to your staunch commitment to Jain values, community service, and spiritual elevation. In these 25 remarkable years, JCNC has blossomed into a sacred lighthouse of Jain philosophy—a place where generations have come to seek peace, purpose, and profound connection with our Tirthankars' teachings.

As your elder sister organization, JCSC feels a deep sense of pride, affection, and spiritual kinship in watching JCNC flourish. Our journeys have always been intertwined, and we are truly blessed to have walked side by side, nurturing each other through shared aspirations and a common devotion.

We bow in reverence to the visionary founders who laid the foundation of this divine institution, and to every volunteer, leader, and devotee who has enriched JCNC's legacy. Your milestone is not just yours alone—it is a celebration for the entire Jain diaspora.

May this celebration inspire continued growth, unity, and the radiant spread of Jain dharma for generations to come. We are honored to join hands in this joyous occasion and send you all our love, blessings, and enthusiastic participation.

In Seva and Sadhbhavana,

*Sameer M. Shah*

Sameer M. Shah, JCSC President, on behalf of Jain Center of Southern California Family.



Jain Center Of Southern California, 8072 Commonwealth Ave., P.O. Box 546, Buena Park, CA 90621-0546  
Ph: (714) 529-5246 | www.jaincenter.org  
(A Non-Profit California Corporation, Federal ID# 33-9612207)



1830 Anna Ln, Vista, CA 92083  
[www.jssd.org](http://www.jssd.org)  
Phone: (760) 440-5246



*May the teachings of our Tirthankars continue to be a guiding force for all around us. Jain Society of San Diego extends wishes of joy & gratitude for this auspicious occasion of JCNC's Silver Anniversary! Anumodna for the sangh that enabled a beautiful extension of Jainism to this world, by way of a state-of-the-art, magnificent temple & their selfless service over a quarter of a century! We wish you well and hope to join in the festivities.*

*Sincere regards & Jai Jinendra!  
Jain Society of San Diego, Vista, California*



A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization, EIN 33-1096724  
<https://www.jcgsc.org>

10375 Old Placerville Road, Sacramento, CA 95827

Dear JCNC Community,

On behalf of JCGS, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on your 25th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to your unwavering dedication to Jain principles, faith, and community service. Over the years, JCNC has been a beacon of spiritual guidance, compassion, and unity, inspiring many Jains across the USA.

We are deeply grateful for the bond we share and sincerely appreciate your continuous support and encouragement. Your contributions have not only helped JCGS grow but have also strengthened the spirit of Seva and compassion within our community.

As you celebrate this silver jubilee, we reflect on the profound impact JCNC has had on the wider Jain community. May this anniversary be a time of joy, reflection, and renewed inspiration for all.

Once again, congratulations on this incredible achievement. May the blessings of the Tirthankars always be with you, and may JCNC continue to thrive, spreading the wisdom of Jain Dharma. We look forward to many more years of collaboration and shared progress.

With heartfelt gratitude and warm wishes,

Shubh Shah, President, JCGS

*Shubh Shah*

[www.jcgsc.org](http://www.jcgsc.org)

[president@jcgsc.org](mailto:president@jcgsc.org)



**President**

Shubh Shah  
[president@jcgsc.org](mailto:president@jcgsc.org)  
732-429-2378

**Secretary**

Bhaneesh Jisani  
[secretary@jcgsc.org](mailto:secretary@jcgsc.org)  
916-914-9586

**Treasurer**

Nisarg Shah  
[finance@jcgsc.org](mailto:finance@jcgsc.org)  
916-307-9066

**Value Administrator**

Sachin Gade  
[va@jcgsc.org](mailto:va@jcgsc.org)  
916-365-3246



**JTLA**  
Jain Temple of Los Angeles

10105 Commerce Avenue, Tujunga, CA 91042

**Best Wishes from Jain Temple of Los Angeles**

*On behalf of the Jain Temple of Los Angeles, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Jain Center of Northern California on the momentous occasion of your 50th anniversary since establishment and 25th anniversary of your temple building.*

*This remarkable milestone reflects the dedication, unity, and spiritual strength of your community. Your continued efforts to preserve Jain values and promote ahimsa, compassion, and knowledge have been an inspiration to Jains across the nation.*

*We are honored to celebrate this joyous occasion with you and look forward to joining in the festivities from July 25th through August 5th. May your sangh continue to flourish for generations to come.*

*With admiration and warm regards,  
Jain Temple of Los Angeles  
Rajesh Shah, President  
Board of Directors & Sangh Members*



## JAIN UNITED SANGH OF BAY AREA

2501 Sepulchur Lane, Ste 1000, San Bruno, CA 94064  
info@jusba.org

### To the Respected Leadership of JCNC,

On behalf of **JUSBA Sangh**, it is with immense pride and heartfelt joy that I extend our warmest congratulations on the momentous occasion of the **25th Anniversary of the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC)**.

Since its establishment in August 2000, JCNC has emerged as a spiritual, cultural, and educational hub for Jains in the Bay Area and beyond. As the home of the **first Jain temple in North America with Pran Pratishthit (Anjan Shalakra) Pratimas**, JCNC has stood as a sanctuary for practicing and preserving core Jain values—Ahimsa, Aparigraha, Anekantvad.

**Over the past 25 years**, JCNC has built more than just a temple—it has built a thriving community. Your impactful events, from the grand **Chau Ghar Yatra** to **Mahavir Jayanti** celebrations, and now your visionary step of **acquiring new land for future expansion**, reflect not only commitment to tradition, but also a readiness to evolve and **serve future generations**. Your contributions to Jain education, interfaith dialogue, and cultural engagement continue to leave a lasting mark.

At JUSBA, we view JCNC as an elder brother Sangh—one that has paved the way and inspired our own growth. One of the most touching examples of this bond was the recent Senior Mixer Group's Chaitya Paripati Yatra to JUSBA, a beautiful demonstration of spiritual kinship and shared values. May JCNC continue to reach greater heights in seva, spirituality, and community leadership.

### With Heartfelt Gratitude,

**Manish Jain**  
President, JUSBA Sangh



## Digambar Jain Sangh of Northern California

March 15, 2025

On behalf of the Digambar Jain Sangh of Northern California, it is with immense joy and profound respect that we extend our heartfelt congratulations on the 25th anniversary of Pran Pratishtha of the JCNC Milpitas Jain Temple. For a quarter century, it has stood as a beacon of अहिंसा परमोधर्म, परस्परौ यदो जीव नाम, Aparigraha, and Anekantvad with the institutional promotion of Jain principles.

The dedication of JCNC's leadership and members has created an environment where Jain traditions flourish, fostering unity and strengthening our bonds as a community. JCNC has enriched the lives of the **प्रवर्ती भारतीय** while sharing these universal values with the broader American society. Your dedication to enabling daily puja, prayers, conducting religious and cultural festivals, educational programs, and charitable initiatives has demonstrated the living relevance of Jainism in today's world. Most importantly, JCNC has enabled newly arrived families to feel at home through various regular events and volunteering activities. With the Jain and language classes, our youth are enabled towards the path of self learning of original Jain literature and scriptures.

As we celebrate this historic occasion, we honor JCNC's past achievements and look forward to the future with anticipation. On behalf of DJ Sangh, I am excited to continue this journey alongside JCNC and look forward to strengthening our bonds and wish to support each other in our collective pursuit of Jain teachings and service to the community. May the divine blessings of Bhagwan Mahaveer and all the Tirthankaras guide JCNC to even greater heights in its sacred mission of promoting peace, compassion, and spiritual awakening for all beings.

With deepest respect and spiritual solidarity,

**Kusum Jain**  
President,  
Digambar Jain Sangh of Northern California



16822 Arava Way, Cupertino, CA 95014, USA • president@digambarsangh.org

## Invited Religious Dignitaries and Scholars



### ***Samni Niyojika Madhur Pragyaji***

Samani Madhur Pragyaji is a senior disciple of HH Acharya Mahashramanji and the head of the Samani order. Initiated in 1980, With a Master's in Jainism and over 40 years of experience, she serves at Jain Vishva Bharati Institute in Ladnun, Rajasthan. She is known for leading meditation sessions, giving lectures around the world, and promoting Jain values like non-violence and mindfulness. With extensive national travels across India and international representation in countries such as the UAE, UK, USA, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Italy, Germany, and Nepal, she has become a respected ambassador of Jain philosophy and intercultural harmony worldwide.



### ***Dr. Samani Amal Pragyaji***

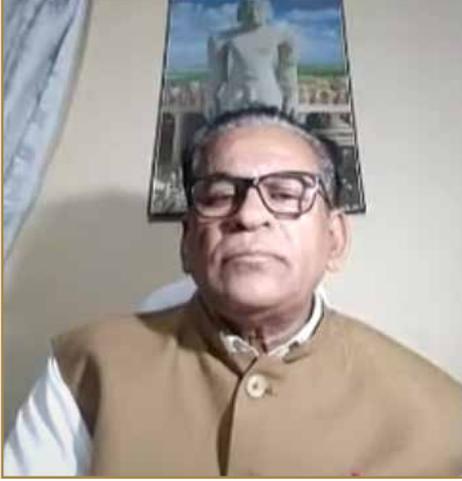
Dr. Samani Amal Pragyaji, a disciple of HH Acharya Mahashramanji, is a distinguished scholar and professor at Jain Vishva Bharati Institute. She holds a Ph.D. in the impact of Preksha Meditation on forgiveness and has led many meditation camps and talks worldwide. She serves as Assistant Director at the Bhagavan Mahavir Research Centre and edits the journal Tulsi Prajna. Her global engagements have taken her to the UAE, UK, USA, Singapore, Vatican City, Rome, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Nepal, where she continues to share the timeless values of Jain philosophy and nonviolence.



### ***Shri Narendrabhai Nandu***

Shri Narendrabhai Nandu, lovingly called "Bha," is a respected Jain vidhikar and pravachankar with over 30 years of service. He has performed over 200 Pratishthas and 50 Anjanshalakas around the world and continues to guide Jain communities in India and abroad. He has performed over 50 Anjanshalakas and 200 Pratishthas globally, with notable events in cities like Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Antwerp (Belgium), London and beyond. He gives discourses during Paryushan across various parts of India and the USA and he is known for his commitment to Jain rituals, fundraising efforts, and spreading spiritual wisdom through discourses and events.

## Invited Religious Scholars and Speakers



### ***Shri Jaykumar Upadhye***

Jaykumar Upadhye is a respected Prakrit scholar and retired professor with over 20 years of teaching experience. He holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Prakrit and has written five Jain religious books including Shri Shantinath Pooja Vidhan, Shrutsavardhini, DasLaxna Dharma on Jain rituals and philosophy. He has published numerous research articles and conducted seminars on various aspects of Prakrit and his contributions to Jain literature and language studies are widely recognized.



### ***Shri Pramodbhai Patel***

Pramod Patel, a third-generation Bay Area native, has been involved in Jain Dharma (Shrimad Bhakti) activities since childhood. His family's Jain group has been active in the region for over 75 years. Pramod bhai has played a key role at JCNC, including during the Jain Bhawan construction, serving as Vice President and holding various Religious and Board positions. For nearly 25 years, he has led Shrimad Bhakti and Swadhyay programs. He lives in the Bay Area with his wife Roshni and daughters Jeenali and Agna, and enjoys reading philosophy and playing golf in his free time.



### ***Deesha Didi Ajmera***

Deesha Didi began her spiritual journey through studies under Param Gurudev and has served as a Pathshala teacher with JSMW and Look n Learn Online. She has been active in Young Jains of America (JAINA entity) and continues to grow by teaching and learning Jainism in the U.S.

## Invited Religious Vidhikars



### ***Shri Harshilbhai Shah***

Harshilbhai has spent the past 18 years performing Jain pujas, anjanshalakas, and pran pratishtha vidhis as both a vidhikarak and sangitkar. He has led Paryushan aaradhanas and over 50 pratishtha ceremonies around the world, including in London, Australia, Antwerp, Dubai, and Africa—most recently at JSMW. Professionally, he is a respected professor, teaching CA, CS, and MBA courses at various institutions.



### ***Shri Moxitbhai Mehta***

Shri Moxitbhai Mehta is an accomplished Sangit Visharad in Vocal Indian classical music and is known for his Dharmik Swadhyay (spiritual discourses) and musical performances. Professionally, he works as an engineer at an IT company based in San Jose, USA, with offices in Vadodara, India.



### ***Shri Viragbhai Shah***

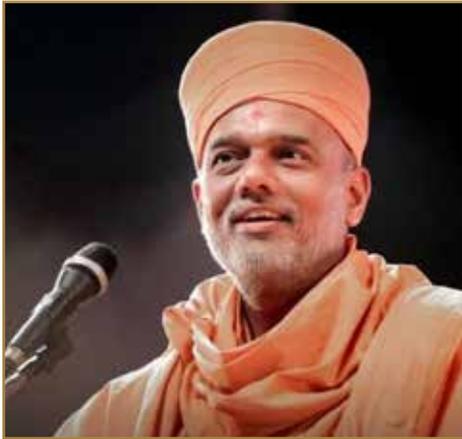
Viragbhai Shah, age 26, comes from a deeply spiritual family with eight family members having taken Diksha. A Tapovan graduate with a solid academic background, he is well-versed in Jain rituals and has quickly become a respected youth mentor. In just over a year at JCNC, he has inspired many through his deep knowledge and dedication to Jain values.



### ***Adhyapak Shri Jayeshbhai Khona***

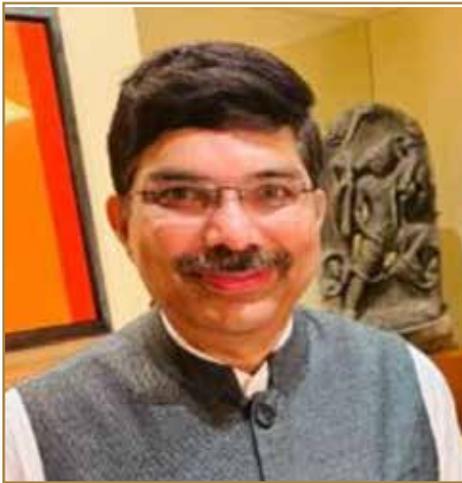
Adhyapak Shri Jayeshbhai Khona is a respected Jain scholar and educator who has inspired audiences in over 200 cities worldwide through spiritual talks and workshops over the past 30 years. He has taught Jain philosophy at UC Berkeley and Santa Clara University, conducted Paryushan Parv globally, and mentored young leaders. His contributions include social projects like a Jain Gaushala and the world's first 14 Raj Lok-shaped bird house in Kerala. He recently led the rare Diksha ceremony of Shri Rishibhai in Shahpur Tirth. He is a true ambassador of Jain values, compassion, and wisdom.

## Invited Guest Speakers



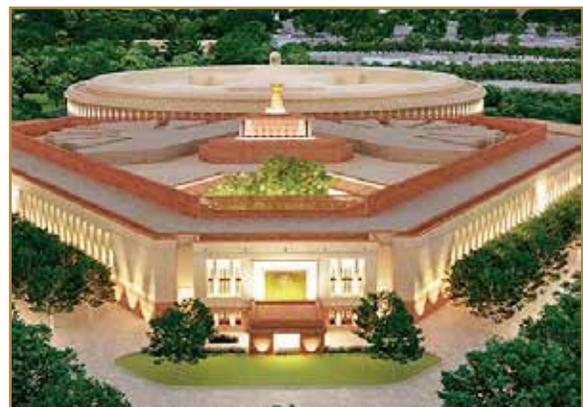
### ***Dr. Gnanvatsal Swami, Motivational Speaker***

Pujya Dr. Gnanvatsal Swami is a globally respected life coach and inspirational speaker from BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha. He was initiated as a Sadhu in 1992 by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj. Over the past 33 years, he has delivered more than 15,500 life-enhancing talks across 32 countries, inspiring over 3 million people, including more than 5,000 leaders from diverse fields. Known for blending timeless spiritual wisdom with modern relevance, his talks empower audiences to live with clarity, purpose, and values.



### ***Dr. K. Srikar Reddy, Guest of Honor***

Dr. K. Srikar Reddy is a Consul General of India at San Francisco, Calif. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in the year 2001 and served in various positions at Indian Missions including Germany and Switzerland. Dr Reddy was a Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of India to the World Trade Organization and Consul General to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He was the Chief Negotiator of India for the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement and India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.



# Mahasangh Pati

Girishbhai and Dattaben Shah Family, Campbell CA



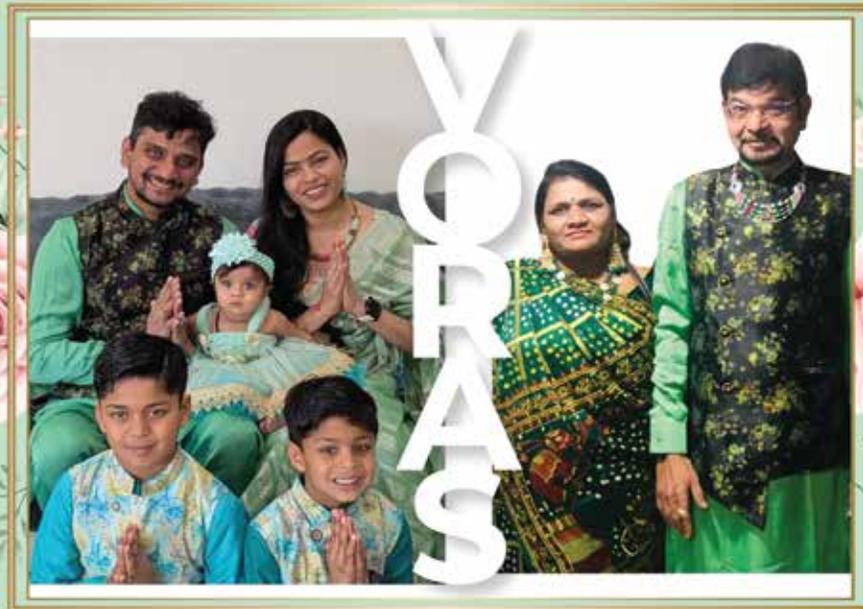
Congratulations to **Sakal Sangh** and **JCNC** leaders on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jain Bhawan and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Jain Samaj (Jain Milan)** in the Bay Area.

You all have contributed immensely with **Tan, Man** and **Dhan** in making JCNC a vibrant community which has grown from a few families 50 years ago to over 2500 families today.

Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all.

# Sanghpati

Chandni, Viral, Neev, Keev, Priva Vora & Family



On this joyous 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our beloved JCNC Derasar, Vora family extends heartfelt wishes for continued prosperity and spiritual enlightenment.  
May the teachings of Jainism forever illuminate our paths.  
We are proud to be part of this vibrant community that upholds our precious Jain values.



# Platinum Promoter

## Madhu and Navindra Jain

*Celebrating Twenty-Five Years of JCNC*



For twenty-five years, JCNC has been a beacon of Jain Dharma in northern California, offering a haven of spiritual enrichment and solace, an oasis of refuge and renewal amidst the stress-laden fast life of Silicon Valley. More than a temple – it is a nurturing space where friendships blossom, traditions are upheld, and the timeless values of Jain Dharma are shared across generations.

As inheritors of the great traditions of Jain Dharma - the eternal truth propounded by omniscient Tirthankaras, passed down with devotion by those before us, we hold a sacred duty - to safeguard these traditions and pass them along, unaltered, to those after us. We look to JCNC carrying forward this legacy with enduring strength and wisdom.

As we commemorate this remarkable milestone, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to JCNC for its steadfast commitment to preserving and promoting Jain principles. May it continue to inspire, educate, and strengthen the bonds of our community for generations to come..

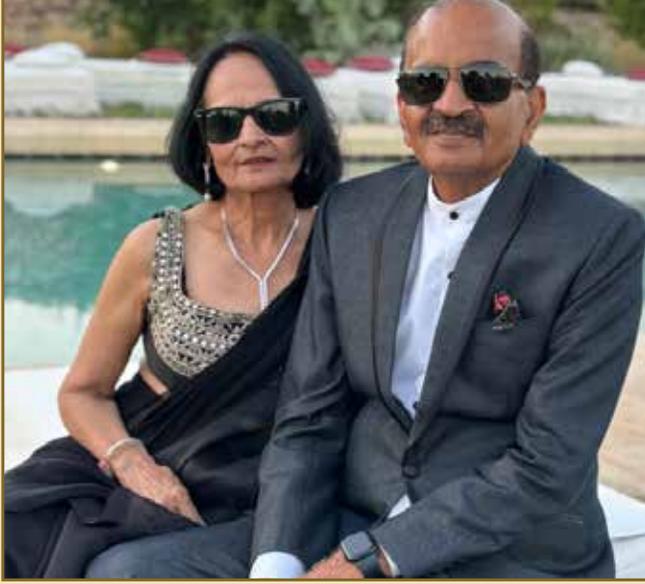
## With Wishes

## Navindra & Madhu Jain



# Diamond Promoter

Prem Jain, JCNC Past President and Board Chair



Dear Jain Center of Northern California Family, Congratulations on two monumental milestones: the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our beloved Jain Temple and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our organization! These celebrations are a testament to the dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment of each member of our community.

Over the years, our temple has been a place of worship and learning, fostering the values of Jainism and enriching our

lives. As we commemorate these significant achievements, let us reflect on our journey and the lives we've touched together.

In the spirit of our teachings, let us continue to embrace compassion, Ahimsa, and forgiveness. These principles guide us in our interactions with one another and the world, reminding us of our duty to promote kindness and understanding.

Here's to many more years of growth, learning, and community. Let's come together to celebrate our heritage, uphold our principles, and pave the way for future generations.

**Warm wishes,  
Prem and Sandhya Jain**



## Diamond Promoter

### Rakesh, Ami, Siya, Aeva, Rajendra & Dhruvlata Shah

For the past 25 years, JCNC has been an integral part of our lives—a true second home. It has enriched our values and provided a space of peace and reflection. Whether it's Puja, Pathshala, Aarti, Aangi, Board meetings, drama and dance practices, PVSA, or cooking, each activity has shaped our identity and strengthened our character. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and be part of this incredible community.



## Jainam Jayati Shashanam



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# When Tradition Meets Technology: Reimagining JCNC Through AI

Living in the heart of Silicon Valley - the global hub of innovation and AI - we are surrounded by groundbreaking tools like ChatGPT and Google's latest technologies that are transforming the world. At the same time, we follow a religion rooted in wisdom that spans thousands of years.

I wanted to explore how these two worlds - ancient Jain values and modern AI - can come together. Using ChatGPT, I generated creative visual interpretations of the JCNC temple in various popular artistic styles. The results were both inspiring and imaginative, and I'm excited to share this unique blend of tradition and technology with our community through this souvenir.



*Original Image - Jain Center of Northern California*

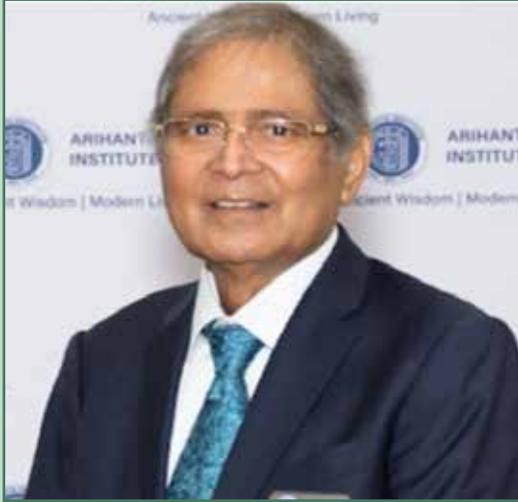
Throughout this souvenir we would like to show how JCNC is embracing AI technology to honor Jain heritage in a fresh, artistic, and engaging way. This concept will enhance the overall experience of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir while staying rooted in Jain values.

You will see JCNC in the following forms:

*Lego, Origami, White Marble Sculpture, Warli (Tribal Art), 3D Structure, Crochet, Disney, Foggy, Charcoal, Balloon, Cloud, Floral, Crayons, Geometric, Minecraft, Marble, Embroidery, Glow, Icy, Monet, Sand Castle, Watercolor, Puzzle Piece, Gold-Silver-Rose, UV Glow, Ink Wash, Mosaic, Oil Painting, Time Slice, Wireframe, Stained Glass, Pointillism Art.*

FELICITATIONS TO  
THE JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Parveen Jain, JCNC Chairman and President of  
Jain Bhawan Committee (1995-2000),  
Past President and Board Chair, and CEO Arihanta Institute*



***Jai Jinendra!***

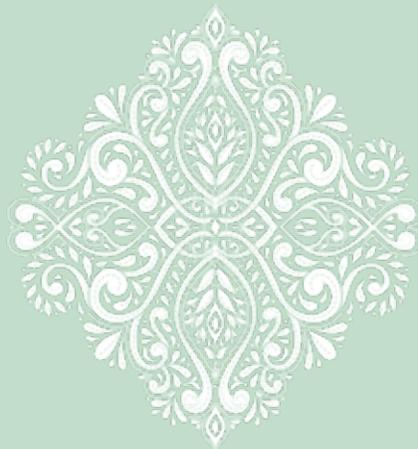
On this auspicious occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jain Bhawan *Pratiṣṭhā*, heartfelt congratulations to the entire Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) Sangha.

As we celebrate this momentous milestone and recognize the tireless efforts of JCNC volunteers and leaders over the past twenty-five years, let us also take a moment to honor the visionary pioneers who guided JCNC since its inception in 1975.

We especially acknowledge the unwavering dedication of the Jain Bhawan Committee and every member of our community—***adults, youth, and children***—who contributed selflessly between 1995 and 2000. The realization of Jain Bhawan stands as proof that even the unimaginable becomes possible when we act without ego, united in heart and purpose.

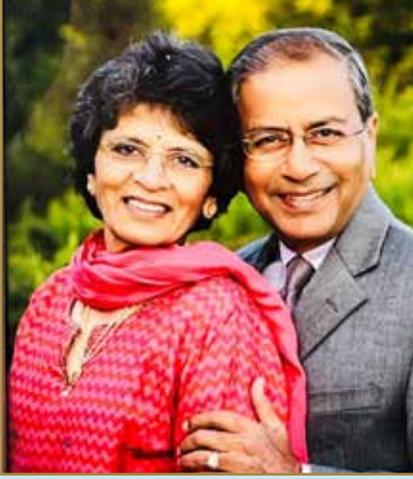
Jain Bhawan remains a shining testament to that eternal truth.

***Jai Jinendra !  
Parveen Jain***



**FELICITATIONS TO  
THE JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

***Bipin Shah, JCNC Jain Bhawan Construction Committee Chair  
(1995-2000), Past President and Board Chair***



Rekha and I are very pleased to congratulate JCNC on this very momentous occasion of having completed twenty-five years in this beautiful Jain Bhawan, one of the best looking, well planned and architected Jain Temples in North America amongst close to seventy plus that have been built over the last four decades.

I take special joy in sending this message as I had been extended the privilege to be its Chair of the Construction Committee and with a team of ten other professionals that were adept in all aspects of engineering and exterior and interior architecture along with our very competent architectural firm Archevon, headed by Kartik Patel locally in the Bay area.

Credit has to be extended to the firm of Trivedi Brothers in Ahmedabad for all their work on the interior marble items and delivering them on time.

One of the major achievements of our Bhawan is that this was one of the first and if not the first Jain Bhawan to bring two major sects of Jains – Shwetambar and Digambar traditions to come together under a single roof and build a temple that represents five different sects of Jains – Shwetambar Deravasi Murtipujak, Digambar Murtipujak, Shwetambar Sthankvasi, Sthankvasi Terapanthi and followers of Shrimad Rajchadra in the Bay area. With the entire San Francisco Bay area community's unity, collaborative financial contributions and dedicated efforts, the project was completed in record three years including the design and approvals from the city at a total cost including land of about \$7.5 million and JCNC completely paid off this expenditure in a short time period after its opening in August 2000. This incidentally happened during the term of this writer's Presidency of JCNC Executive Committee from 2002 to 2004.

We thank everyone for maintaining the Bay Area Jain Sangh's harmony during these years and wish that with the growth of Jain Community in the Bay Area with a lot of younger professional moving here, that we will continue to grow and expand and continue to set an example of our excellent governance, democratic management principles and multi sect harmony as we have demonstrated through all these years in North America.

***Jai Jinendra!!  
Bipin and Rekha Shah  
Lafayette, CA. April 2025***

FELICITATIONS TO  
THE JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Kundi Kapadia, JCNC Fundraising Committee  
Co-chair (1995-2000) and Past Board Chair*



Congratulations to the entire JCNC Sangh on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Let all of us celebrate it with gratitude and joy. Our beloved Jain Bhawan has a rich history, and it has provided blessings to the entire community. As we all know our Bhawan was the first one in the USA built on the principle of **JAIN UNITY**.

For the quarter century Jain Bhawan has provided spiritual nourishment and it is very inspirational. May the **Mulnayak Adinathdada** continue to bless the entire JCNC community.

I thank all who have contributed to building Jain Bhawan and look forward to its continued growth for many more years to come. My Gratitude to all volunteers serving our community. I hope for continued growth and success and Bhawan remains a vibrant with outpouring of blessings on the entire community.

Together we all rejoice memories with the blessing of **Adinathdada** to the JCNC community. Let's celebrate together the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jain Bhawan with joy.

**Jai Jinendra !**  
**Kundi and Bipin Kapadia**



FELICITATIONS TO  
THE JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Manhar Shah, JCNC Temple and Religious  
Planning Committee Chair (1995-2000)*



Early FY1996-97, the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) committee members decided to build our own Jain Bhawan in the San Francisco Bay Area, as our Jain community had grown to about 250 families.

Looking for a place to worship, we sought an existing building or land in the Bay Area. Our core team fortunately found a land parcel and built the beautiful Jain Bhawan – a temple upstairs and a downstairs auditorium with a commercial kitchen and dining room.

Our core team and dedicated volunteers worked so hard to establish the Jain temple in the heart of the San Francisco Bay Area, with the *Anjansalaka (Pran Pratistha) Mul Naik Pratimajis*. Our theme was to remain united across all five sects of worship.

As a part of the temple establishment, our family was very fortunate that all *Dev* and *Devis, Gabhara Mulnaik Mahavirswamiji, Chandraprabhuji* and *Shantinahji* with *Gomati pratimajis*, came to our home for labh almost 3 months before the Pratimaji installation at Jain Temple upstairs. I was performing daily poojas and Artis until the day all Pratimajis went to JCNC. All community members were coming for Darshan and Artis almost every day and everyone participated and enjoyed.

When the Jain temple was initially built, I served as the Religious Team Chair for the Core Team. The religious committee designed the Garbhara, Gomati, and Rang Mandap for pooja and worship. During the main Pratistha Mahotsav in August 2000, my wife, Pratibha, and I coordinated all five days of events with Muniji Shri Jinchandra Bandu Tripathiji, Shri Bhatarakji, Vidihikar Manojbhai Haran, Shri Narendrabhai Nandu, and the Shrimadji team. Our religious volunteers worked from 6:00am to 11:00pm each day, and the Pratistha ceremony was a great success. We were so happy to see each and every member of our volunteer team at the temple and deeply appreciated the dedicated service they offered with their hearts. Over the five days of Pratistha, more than 20,000 members participated. Our temple was the only one to have Anjan Salaka Mulnaik Pratimajis when we built the JCNC.

In October 2024, we successfully installed three new Dhvaj Dands with shashtra. Our Jain community has now grown to over 2,000 families, and the Jain Bhawan is open every day from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm.

*Jai Jinendra !  
Manhar Shah*

FELICITATIONS TO  
JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Jay Itchhaporja, JCNC Temple India Project Committee Chair (1995-2000), Past President*



*Jai Jinendra!*

Jayvadan, Tarunika, Dipti & Abhay, and Nita Itchhaporja congratulate the Jain Center on this auspicious 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Twenty-five (25) years ago, the vision of a Jain center and temple began as a humble aspiration.

Through the tireless efforts, dedication, and selfless service of countless individuals, including our parents that lived in India for over eight (8) months getting the multiple murthis built and shipped to the US, we have been able to build a place of worship, peace, and reflection that embodies the timeless teachings of Lord Mahavir.



May this temple not only be a place where we come to pray, but also a beacon of light that spreads love, kindness, and understanding to all people, regardless of background or belief.

May Lord Mahavir's blessings continue to shower upon our temple, our community, and each of us individually, guiding us on the path of righteousness!

*Jai Jinendra !  
Jay Itchhaporja*

**FELICITATIONS TO  
THE JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

***Girish Shah, JCNC Jain Bhawan Fundraising Committee Co-chair (1995-2000),  
Past President (1983-84, 2006-07) and Board Chair (2021)***



Dutta and I are pleased to convey our heartfelt congratulations to **Sakal Sangh** on the auspicious occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **pran-pratishtha** of the Derasar and Jain Bhawan and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Jain Milan**, a predecessor organization of JCNC.

As an early immigrant in the San Francisco Bay Area, Datta and I were fortunate to be part of handful of Jain families who envisioned **Jain Milan** some 50 years ago, which now become a vibrant institution serving religious, educational and community services and thereby imbibing Sanskar and cultural values to next generation youths.

On this auspicious occasion we are pleased to go back to memory lane and recall a day when **Anjan Salaka Paratimas** arrived from India at the San Francisco Airport.

It was a Friday afternoon, and we received a call, at our home, from the airport freight department that “Our shipment” had arrived and we should clear it the same day as they will be closed for the next two days due to the weekend. I assured them that we will be there soon and requested them to wait for us. I quickly made a few phone calls (no mobile phones in those days) to rent a truck and came to the airport freight terminal. Datta and I promptly reached and paid the clearing/custom dues and awaited others to come. As closing time was approaching, I kept urging that our colleagues will be here soon and please do not close the department. Luckily, others came just in nick of time, and the truck followed. The crates were loaded on the truck, and we were on the way to Jain Bhawan, meeting the requirement to perform pooja every 24 hours. All of us had a deep sigh of relief.

All of us are fortunate that ours is the first temple in North America to have **Anajan shalaka pratimas**. Jain Bhawan is an integrated Jain temple accommodating all five main traditions, which was unique in the world some 25 years ago.

Today, JCNC has become a beacon which has inspired many other Jain Centers in North America. Let all of us take vows to preserve the core values on which this giant institution is built and pass on it to our next generation youths.

Once again congratulations, and let's celebrate this milestone year's celebrations with

तन, मन और धन I

**Jai Jinendra !**

**Girish and Datta Shah**

# *Congratulations to* **JCNC on the 25th Anniversary**

May the spirit of Ahimsa and Anekantvaad  
guide JCNC to a great future !!!



**Biren & Rita Shah**

(San Ramon CA)

**Dipan & Jigna Shah**

(Edison NJ)

**Kalpikumar & Late Belaben Shah**

(Tinton Falls NJ)

Dr Adit Shah, Dr Henika Shah, Adin Shah,  
Rahul Shah, Aman Shah

Late Rasiklal and Late Kokilaben Shah Family



# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Core Committee



**MITTAL KOTHARI**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chair



**NITIN SHAH**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Co-Chair



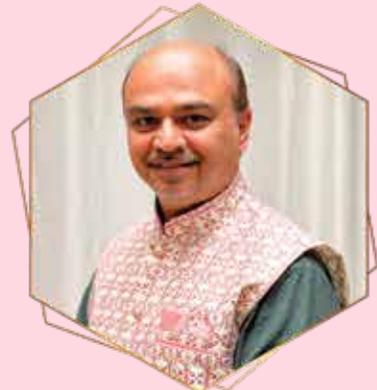
**DEVEN SHAH**  
President



**BIREN SHAH**  
Past President



**JAYESH JAIN**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee



**PARAG SHAH**  
VP Religious Programs



**NAYAN JAIN**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee



*Arihanta Mangalam, Siddha Mangalam,  
Sahu Mangalam, Kevali-Pannatto Dhammo Mangalam !!*



ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION OF THE  
*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

With Best Compliments from-  
Vasuben Jitendrakumar Shah Family, Jigna - Parag, Hirva and Vihan

# 25<sup>th</sup> Aniversary Celebration Committees

Religious	Media-PR	Fundraising	Cultural
Parag Shah, <i>Lead</i>	Biren Shah, <i>Lead</i>	Yogesh Bapna, <i>Lead</i>	Kamalesh Jain, <i>Lead</i>
Nitul Haria, <i>Co-Lead</i>	Vipul Kothari, <i>Co-Lead</i>	Sharad Shah, <i>Co-Lead</i>	Sanket Shah, <i>Co-Lead</i>
Ami Shah	Deepak Shah	Biren Shah	Jaina Shah
Anju Shah	Kirit Bavishi	Dhruvin Shah	Jenish Shah
Ashok Sethi	Nayan Jain	Milan Shah	Nikunj Mehta
Forum Shah	Niranjana Patel	Mittal Kothari	Niyati Shah
Jignesh Shah	Pravin Turakhia	Nayan Jain	Pooja Kothari
Milan Shah	Rachana Jain	Nitin Shah	Ridhi Shah
Padmesh Parekh	Rajesh Shah		Sharad Dadbhawala
Riya Mehta	Rasesh Shah		Sunil Ranka
Sudhanshu Jain	Sharad Dadbhawala		Jigar Mehta
Taresh Parekh	Vinod Lodha		Ajay Lunawat
Vinita Shah	Pooja Kothari		Mahak Bandi
Gautam Mehta			Pratibha Mehta
			Raj Nathawat
			Suhas Mehta
			Vinod Baya

Food	Technology	Facilities	Finance
Mala Chaudhari, <i>Lead</i>	Jinesh Gandhi, <i>Lead</i>	Bhavin Shah, <i>Lead</i>	Jayesh Jain <i>Lead</i>
Mihir Doctor, <i>Co-Lead</i>	Aadi Shah, <i>Co-Lead</i>	Yash Veera, <i>Co-Lead</i>	Nirav Shah, <i>Co-Lead</i>
Giriraj Jain	Akshay Kochar	Hasmukh Patel	
Sahil Shah	Chintan Shah	Rajiv Jain	
Umesh Sagar	Rishi Raj Jain	Jay Shah	
Nishant Sabadra	Roopal Jain	Ronak Shah	
Vijay Chopra		Yatrik Mehta	
Bipin Nepani		Sarin Mehta	
Hetan Shah		Akshay Jain	
Ravi Shah		Rahul Gala	
Amit Jain		Kailash Kothari	
		Smit Savla	
		Raj Shah	

# A Tapestry of Love: Why This Temple Holds a Piece of Our Hearts ?



Our connection to JCNC began in 2014, when we moved to Silicon Valley and lived right across from the temple. Daily *dhwaja darshan* brought us peace, and we could truly feel the divine presence of Adinath Dada. It filled us with pride to have such a sacred institution so close by.

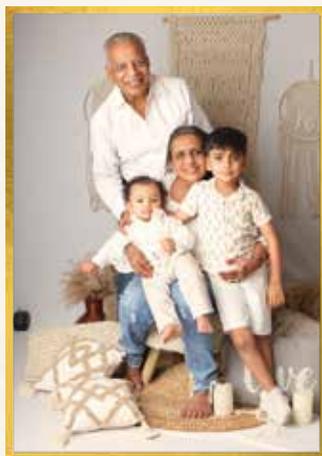
More than a building, JCNC is a jewel on Main Street—a symbol of faith, unity and spiritual connection. Living nearby allowed us to volunteer and find solace, strength, and clarity within its serene spaces.

Beyond personal reflection, JCNC has given us a true sense of community where like-minded souls became family. Our spiritual journey deepened through more *tapasya* and *bhakti*. Today, we're raising our children, Noam and Heom, who consider the temple their second home. They say it takes a village to raise kids. This is our village !

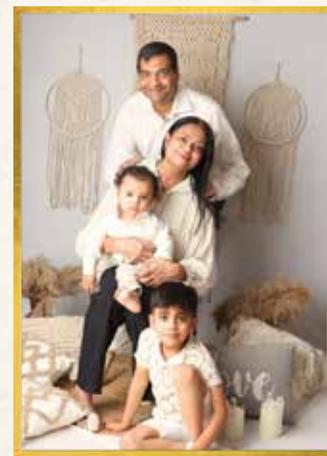
We are forever grateful to our parents for grounding us in Jain Dharma, which makes it natural to embrace and cherish our iconic *Jin Shashan*.

As we celebrate JCNC's 25th anniversary, we honor not just a temple, but a beacon of light guiding generations to come.

FROM  
MITTAL POOJA NOAM AND  
HEOM KOTHARI



Chandrakanth Babulal Kothari  
Hasumati Chandrakant Kothari



Jayesh Bhogilal Shah  
Harsha Jayesh Shah



25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committees -  
Leads and Co-Leads



**PARAG SHAH**



**NITUL HARIA**



**BIREN SHAH**



**VIPUL KOTHARI**



**YOGESH BAPNA**



**SHARAD SHAH**



**KAMALESH JAIN**



**SANKET SHAH**



**MALA CHAUDHARI**



**MIHIR DOCTOR**



**JINESH GANDHI**



**AADI SHAH**



**BHAVIN SHAH**



**YASH VEERA**



**JAYESH JAIN**



**NIRAV SHAH**

# 2025 Board of Directors



**MAYUR PATEL**  
Chairman of the Board



**RITESH PATANI**  
Secretary



**DEVAN SHAH**  
President



**KUNDI KAPADIA**



**MITTAL KOTHARI**



**TARESH PAREKH**



**RAVI VORA**



**RAKESH SHAH**

# 2025 Board of Directors



**SUNIL RANKA**



**RAHUL PAREKH**



**DHRUMIN SHAH**



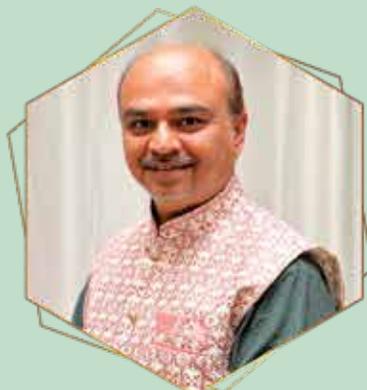
**GAUTAM MEHTA**



**ANIL RANKA**



**NIRAV SHAH**

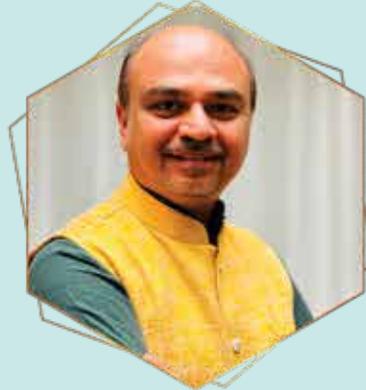


**PARAG SHAH**

# 2025 Executive Committee Members



**DEVEN SHAH**  
President



**PARAG SHAH**  
VP of Religious



**JINESH GANDHI**  
VP of Technology



**BHAVIN SHAH**  
VP of Facility



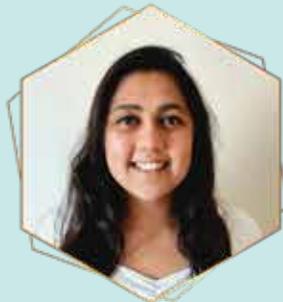
**VIPUL KOTHARI**  
VP of Public Relations



**NIRAV SHAH**  
VP of Finance



**JAYASHREE SHAH**  
VP of Education  
Upto May 2025



**MILONI MODI**  
VP of Education  
From June 2025



**JAINA SHAH**  
VP of Cultural



**UDAY SHAH**  
VP of Private Events

# 2025 Executive Committee Members



**MALA CHAUDHARY**  
VP of Food



**NITUL HARIA**  
Co-VP of Religious



**AKSHAY KOCHAR**  
Co-VP of Technology



**MIRAV KAPADIA**  
Co-VP of Education



**RASESH SHAH**  
Co-VP of Public Relations



**SANKET SHAH**  
Co-VP of Cultural



**RAJIV SHAH**  
Co-VP of Facility



**HEMAL SHAH**  
Co-VP of Finance



**ANKIT SANGHAVI**  
Co-VP of Private Events



**SAHIL SHAH**  
Co-VP Food

## JCNC Esteemed Leaders from 2000 to 2024

<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Board Chair	Parveen Jain	Prem Jain	Prem Jain	Kundi Kapadia
Secretary	Jitendra Shah	Yogendra Bobra	Yogendra Bobra	Yogendra Bobra
President	Prerana Saraiya	Navin Dedhia	Navin Dedhia	Kaishal Dalal
General Counsel	Nita Itchhaporla	Nita Itchhaporla	Nita Itchhaporla	Nita Itchhaporla
Director	Pravin Turakhia	Arun Bhimani	Arun Bhimani	Ashok Domadia
Director	Jay Itchhaporla	Jay Itchhaporla	Jay Itchhaporla	Jay Itchhaporla
Director	Kundi Kapadia	Kirti Doshi	Kirti Doshi	Hasmukh Shah
Director	Prem Jain	Parveen Jain	Parveen Jain	Harendra Shah
Director	Pramod Patel	Pramod Patel	Pramod Patel	Pramod Patel
Director	Bharat Kamdar	Bharat Kamdar	Kundi Kapadia	Ambrish Sethi
Director	Bipin Shah	Bipin Shah	Bipin Shah	Bipin Shah
Director	Pallavi Khokhani	Pallavi Khokhani	Devang Shah	Devang Shah
Director	Chandra Parekh	Chandra Parekh	Pravin Madhani	Pravin Madhani
Director	Harendra Shah	Surinder Jain	Surinder Jain	Surinder Jain
Director	Girish Shah	Girish Shah	Girish Shah	Pravin Turakhia
Director	Hasmukh Shah	Prerana Saraiya	Prerana Saraiya	Tushar Vora
<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
President	Jitendra Shah	Jay Itchhaporla	Jay Itchhaporla	Bipin Shah
VP of Religious	Prerana Saraiya	Prerana Saraiya	Prerana Saraiya	Pravin Turakhia
VP of Tech				Sudhanshu Jain
VP of Education				Kanan Shah
VP of PR	Sunil Vora	Sunil Vora	Sunil Vora	Raj Shah
VP of Cultural				Nitin Shah
VP of Facility				Harshad Shah
VP of finance	Manhar Shah	Tushar Vora	Tushar Vora	Kaishal Dalal
VP of Private Event	Rupa Ajmera	Ashok Domadia	Ashok Domadia	Nima Gujjar
VP of Food	Navin Dedhia	Dipa Doshi	Dipa Doshi	
CO-VP of Religious	Surinder Jain	Ketan Itchhaporla	Ketan Itchhaporla	Datta Shah
CO-VP of Tech	Bhavna Shah	Smitin Mehta	Smitin Mehta	
CO-VP of Education	Girish Shah	Girish Shah	Girish Shah	Ashok Sethi
CO-VP of PR	Hasmukh Shah	Devang Shah	Devang Shah	Chetan Sanghvi
CO-VP of Cultural	Varsha Shah	Nitin Shah	Nitin Shah	Shrenik Zaveri
CO-VP of Facility	Varsha Vora	Ritesh Shah	Ritesh Shah	Dhanesh Shah
CO-VP of finance	Arti Bakshi	Kinjal Shah	Kinjal Shah	Harish Shah
CO-VP of Private Event	Smruti Shah		Bhavini Gada	Naresh Doshi
CO-VP of Food	Harendra Shah	Pramod Patel	Pramod Patel	

## JCNC Esteemed Leaders from 2000 to 2024

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Kundi Kapadia	Parveen Jain	Parveen Jain	Bipin Shah	Prem Jain
Hasu Shah	Hasu Shah	Hasu Shah	Shailesh Vinayak	Shailesh Vinayak
Hasmukh Shah	Navin Dedhia	Navin Dedhia	Navin Dedhia	Prakash C. Jain
Nita Itchhaporia	Nita Itchhaporia	Nita Itchhaporia	Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil
Ashok Domadia	Heena Nandu	Meenaxi Sethi	Yogesh Bapna	Chandra Parekh
Jay Itchhaporia	Jay Itchhaporia	Jay Itchhaporia	Jay Itchhaporia	Navin Dedhia
Chetan Sanghvi	Bhulabhai Patel	Shailesh Vinayak	Kaishal Dalal	Yogesh Bapna
Harendra Shah	Sharad Dadbhawala	Sharad Dadbhawala	Parveen Jain	Jay Itchhaporia
Pramod Patel	Pramod Patel	Pramod Patel	Hasu Shah	Kaishal Dalal
Ambrish Sethi	Ambrish Sethi	Nitin Shah	Meenaxi Sethi	Vikram Bhandari
Bipin Shah	Bipin Shah	Bipin Shah	Biren Shah	Hasu Shah
Devang Shah	Ashok Sethi	Ashok Sethi	Vatsal Shah	Meenaxi Sethi
Pravin Madhani	Pravin Turakhia	Pravin Turakhia	Kundi Kapadia	Bipin Shah
Tushar Vora	Tushar Vora	Tushar Vora	Tushar Vora	Kundi Kapadia
Girish Shah	Girish Shah	Girish Shah	Girish Shah	Tushar Vora
Harish Shah	Prerana Saraiya	Prerana Saraiya	Prerana Saraiya	Sulochana Jain
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bipin Shah	Hasu Shah	Girish Shah	Girish Shah	Prakash C. Jain
	Navneet Jain	Prem Jain	Vatsal Shah	Sulochana Jain
Rikesh Shah	Mahendra Shah	Rajeev Jain	Rikesh Shah	Sudhanshu Jain
Ashok Sethi	Viral Mehta	Yogesh Bapna	Jyoti Vora	Ashok Sethi
Chetan Sanghvi	Heena Nandu	Kamlesh Mehta	Vimal Shah	Mamta Jain
Parimal Zaveri		Nitin Shah	Dr. Jolly Shah	Monali Jain
	Harshad Shah	Smitin Mehta		Harshad Shah
Harish Shah	Sharad Dadbhawala	Sharad Dadbhawala	Biren Shah	Vikram Bhandari
Sandeep Jain	Sandeep Jain	Sharad Shah	Munir Vora	Hasmukh Shah
Navneet Jain	Navin Dedhia	Vatsal Shah	Sulochana Jain	Aswin Jain
Mahendra Shah	Rajeev Jain	Rikesh Shah	Premal Shah	Nitin Jain
Viral Mehta	Yogesh Bapna	Jyoti Vora	Sachin Bhayani	Nirmal Baid
Heena Nandu	Anu Hungund	Vimal Shah	Nilesh Doshi	Pradeep Jain
Bhavna Shah	Anil Ranka	Dr. Jolly Shah	Sharad Shah	Vibha Vora
Pradhuman Zaveri		Narendra Mehta		Ajay Shah
	Pallavi Shah	Biren Shah	Sunil Shah	Manhar Shah
	Elna Mehta	Munir Vora		Shobha Vora

## JCNC Esteemed Leaders from 2000 to 2024

<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Board Chair	Prem Jain	Bharat Kamdar	Parveen Jain	Shobha Vora
Secretary	Bharat Kamdar		Ashok Domadia	Ashok Domadia
President	Ashok Sethi	Shobha Vora	Shobha Vora	Nitin Shah
General Counsel		Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil
Director	Rita Shah	Chandra Parekh		
Director	Nitin Shah	Devang Shah	Devang Shah	Jay Itchhaporia
Director	Kundi Kapadia	Girish Shah	Jyoti Vora	Jyoti Vora
Director	Tushar Vora	Manhar Shah	Kamlesh Mehta	Kamlesh Mehta
Director	Bipin Shah	Nitin Shah	Manhar Shah	Rakesh Jain
Director	Hasu Shah	Parveen Jain	Navin Dedhia	Navin Dedhia
Director	Chandra Parekh	Pramod Patel	Nitin Shah	Rakesh Shah
Director		Pravin Turakhia	Pramod Patel	Pramod Patel
Director	Girish Shah	Prem Jain	Pravin Madhani	Yogendra Bobra
Director	Pravin Turakhia	Prerana Saraiya	Pravin Turakhia	Vatsal Shah
Director	Manhar Shah	Rita Shah	Yogendra Bobra	Yogesh Bapna
Director	Aswin Jain	Shobha Vora	Rakesh Lodha	
<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
President	Ashok Sethi	Shobha Vora	Shobha Vora	Nitin Shah
VP of Religious	Aswin Jain	Parveen Jain	Girish Shah	
VP of Tech	Nitin Jain		Rakesh Lodha	Mahendra Kumar
VP of Education	Prerana Saraiya	Manhar Shah	Sudhanshu Jain	Sachin Bhayani
VP of PR	Rajeev Jain	Kamlesh Mehta	Sunil Ranka	Pramod Khincha
VP of Cultural	Vibha Vora	Jyoti Vora	Giriraj Jain	Prem Jain
VP of Facility	Ajay Shah	Harshad Shah	Ajay Shah	Parimal Jain
VP of finance	Manhar Shah	Rakesh Lodha	Chand Mehta	Nilesh Doshi
VP of Private Event	Shobha Vora	Ajay Shah	Anuj Jain	Yogesh Bapna
VP of Food				
CO-VP of Religious	Parveen Jain	Nikunj Mehta	Sharad Shah	Ajay Shah
CO-VP of Tech	Rakesh Lodha	Aditi Khajuria	Mahendra Kumar	Sunil Ranka
CO-VP of Education	Sudhanshu Jain	Sharad Shah	Sachin Bhayani	Neeraj Jain
CO-VP of PR	Nirmal Baid	Sudhanshu Jain	Pramod Khincha	Anuj Jain
CO-VP of Cultural	Sunil Ranka	Parimal Zaveri	Ajay Lunawat	Hemant Fulambarkar
CO-VP of Facility	Ajay Lunawat	Ajay Lunawat	Aditi Khajuria	Hasmukh Shah
CO-VP of finance	Princy Jain	Sachin Bhayani	Manhar Shah	Giriraj Jain
CO-VP of Private Event	Vikram Bhandari	Anuj Jain	Nilesh Doshi	Deepak Sisodia
CO-VP of Food	Ashok Sethi			

## JCNC Esteemed Leaders from 2000 to 2024

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Shobha Vora	Bipin Shah	Bipin Shah	Nitin Shah	Nitin Shah
Ashok Domadia	Yogesh Bapna	Navin Dedhia	Navin Dedhia	Deven Shah
Nitin Shah	Kamlesh Mehta	Kamlesh Mehta	Yogesh Bapna	Yogesh Bapna
Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil
Jay Itchhaporia	Shobha Vora	Jyoti Vora	Giriraj Jain	Navin Dedhia
Jyoti Vora	Ashok Domadia	Yogesh Bapna	Jyoti Vora	Mahasukh Vora
Kamlesh Mehta	Rakesh Jain	Rakesh Jain	Rakesh Jain	Jyoti Vora
Rakesh Jain	Rakesh Shah	Rakesh Shah	Harish Shah	Kamlesh Mehta
Pravin Madhani	Yogendra Bobra	Giriraj Jain	Kamlesh Desai	Kirit Bavishi
Rakesh Shah	Nitin Shah	Nitin Shah	Kamlesh Mehta	Pramod Patel
Pramod Patel	Hasu Shah	Hasu Shah	Kirit Bavishi	Parveen Jain
Yogendra Bobra	Harish Shah	Jayesh Jain	Manhar Shah	Sunil Ranka
Bipin Shah	Pravin Madhani	Pravin Madhani	Pramod Patel	Shobha Vora
Yogesh Bapna	Manhar Shah	Manhar Shah	Parveen Jain	Sharad Shah
Nitin Shah	Pravin Turakhia	Pravin Turakhia	Pravin Turakhia	Girish Shah
Kaishal Dalal	Nimesh Parekh	Vatsal Shah	Taresh Parekh	Harendra Shah
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nitin Shah	Kamlesh Mehta	Kamlesh Mehta	Yogesh Bapna	Yogesh Bapna
Pramod Patel	Nimesh Parekh	Vatsal Shah	Taresh Parekh	Mahasukh Vora
Biren Shah	Pranay Shah	Rikesh Shah	Pranay Shah	Parthiv Shah
Kiran Shah	Nirmal Baid	Suhas Mehta	Nimesh Parekh	Sachin Bhayani
Sunil Ranka	Kiran Shah	Vipul Kothari	Ritesh Patani	Kiran Shah
Parimal Zaveri	Neeraj Jain	Bhupendra Jain	Deven Shah	Pranay Shah
Harshad Shah	Devang Shah	Harshad Shah	Devang Shah	Umesh Sagar
Kaishal Dalal	Harish Shah	Jayesh Jain	Kamlesh Desai	Sharad Shah
Nilesh Doshi	Prashant Singhai	Vimal Shah	Bhavin Doshi	Ajay Shah
Nimesh Parekh	Vatsal Shah	Taresh Parekh	Mahasukh Vora	Rakesh Jain
Pranay Shah	Rikesh Shah	Rupesh Shah	Parthiv Shah	Sunil Mehta
Sharad Shah	Suhas Mehta	Nimesh Parekh	Pratiti Jain	Jayesh Khona
Anuj Jain	Vipul Kothari	Ritesh Patani	Kiran Shah	Hetan Shah
Sachin Bhayani	Bhupendra Jain	Deven Shah	Parimal Zaveri	Niraj Gandhi
Devang Shah	Harshad Shah	Devang Shah	Umesh Sagar	Harshad Shah
Harish Shah	Jayesh Jain	Kamlesh Desai	Sharad Shah	Biren Shah
Prashant Singhai	Vimal Shah	Bhavin Doshi	Ajay Shah	Rajesh Shah

## JCNC Esteemed Leaders from 2000 to 2024

<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Board Chair	Kamlesh Mehta	Nitin Shah	Shobha Vora	Girish Shah
Secretary	Sunil Ranka	Rakesh Jain	Navin Dedhia	Jyoti Vora
President	Sudhanshu Jain	Sudhanshu Jain	Biren Shah	Biren Shah
General Counsel	Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil	Bijal Vakil
Director	Deven Shah	Parveen Jain	Anuj Jain	Bipin Shah
Director	Girish Shah	Vipul Kothari	Deven Shah	Pramod Patel
Director	Harendra Shah	Ritesh Patani	Jayesh Jain	Prerana Saraiya
Director	Ritesh Patani	Navin Dedhia	Jyoti Vora	Yogendra Bobra
Director	Nitin Shah	Shobha Vora	Manhar Shah	Sudhanshu Jain
Director	Kirit Bavishi	Deven Shah	Nimesh Parekh	Pravin Turakhia
Director	Parveen Jain	Anuj Jain	Pramod Patel	Kirit Bavishi
Director	Pramod Patel	Nimesh Parekh	Rakesh Jain	Mittal Kothari
Director	Shobha Vora	Girish Shah	Ritesh Patani	Yogesh Bapna
Director	Navin Dedhia	Kamlesh Mehta	Rikesh Shah	Umesh Sagar
Director	Biren Shah	Manhar Shah	Sudhanshu Jain	Padmesh Parekh
Director	Rakesh Jain	Mittal Kothari	Vipul Kothari	Ravi Vora
<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
President	Sudhanshu Jain	Sudhanshu Jain	Biren Shah	Biren Shah
VP of Religious	Rakesh Jain	Mittal Kothari	Rikesh Shah	Padmesh Parekh
VP of Tech	Sunil Mehta	Rajiv Jain	Mudit Khasgiwala	Bipin Nepani
VP of Education	Jayesh Khona	Mitesh Sheth	Rita Shah	Nishant Sabadra
VP of PR	Hetan Shah	Hetan Shah	Rajeev Jain	Hetan Shah
VP of Cultural	Niraj Gandhi	Umesh Sagar	Ravi Shah	Sharad Dadbhawala
VP of Facility	Harshad Shah	Ajay Shah		Devkumar Gandhi
VP of finance	Biren Shah	Manhar Shah	Manhar Shah	Ravi Vora
VP of Private Event	Rajesh Shah	Somya Ajmera	Deepak Shah	Milan Shah
VP of Food				Mihir Doctor
CO-VP of Religious	Mittal Kothari	Rikesh Shah	Padmesh Parekh	Nikunj Mehta
CO-VP of Tech	Rajiv Jain	Mudit Khasgiwala		Prakash Jain
CO-VP of Education	Mitesh Sheth	Rita Shah	Nishant Sabadra	Nayan Jain
CO-VP of PR	Anshu Jain	Rajeev Jain		Ravi Shah
CO-VP of Cultural	Umesh Sagar	Ravi Shah		Kamlesh Jain
CO-VP of Facility	Ajay Shah	Ajay Lunawat	Devkumar Gandhi	
CO-VP of finance	Manhar Shah	Ravi Vora	Ravi Vora	Bharat Kamdar
CO-VP of Private Event	Somya Ajmera	Ankit Vasal	Milan Shah	Niranjan Patel
CO-VP of Food		Mala Chaudhary		Nirav Gala

## JCNC Esteemed Leaders from 2000 to 2024

2022	2023	2024
Bipin Shah	Yogesh Bapna	Yogesh Bapna
Biren Shah	Nitin Shah	Nikunj Mehta
Mittal Kothari	Mittal Kothari	Deven Shah
Bijal Vakil	Nita Itchhaporia	Elna Mehta
Bharat Kamdar	Chandni Shah	Kundi Kapadia
Girish Shah	Anil Ranka	Mittal Kothari
Hasu Shah	Hasu Shah	Taresh Parekh
Kirit Bavishi	Kirit Bavishi	Mayur Patel
Manhar Shah	Ravi Vora	Hasu Shah
Nitin Shah	Biren Shah	Nitin Shah
Pramod Patel	Nikunj Mehta	Ravi Vora
Pravin Turakhia	Sharad Shah	Kirit Bavishi
Prerana Saraiya	Ritesh Patani	Sunil Ranka
Umesh Sagar	Rakesh Shah	Sharad Shah
Yogendra Bobra	Yogendra Bobra	Ritesh Patani
Yogesh Bapna	Kundi Kapadia	Rakesh Shah
2022	2023	2024
Mittal Kothari	Mittal Kothari	Deven Shah
Girish Shah	Chandni Shah	Taresh Parekh
Prakash Jain	Ronak Shah	Chintan Shah
Nayan Jain	Nishant Sabadra	Jayashree Shah
Ravi Shah	Deepak Shah	Ashish Vora
Kamlesh Jain	Gautam Mehta	Sanket Shah
Ajay Shah	Rahul Parekh	Yash Veera
Bharat Kamdar	Anil Ranka	Mayur Patel
Rajesh Shah	Milan Shah	Rahil Shah
Nirav Gala	Dhruvin Shah	Darshana Shah
Chandni Shah	Sandeep Gandhi	Parag Shah
Ronak Shah	Chintan Shah	Jinesh Gandhi
Dhyanesh Bagadia	Jayashree Shah	Pallavi Sancheti
Deepak Shah	Ashish Vora	Vipul Kothari
Gautam Mehta	Sanket Shah	Jaina Shah
Rahul Parekh	Yash Veera	Bhavin Shah
Anil Ranka	Mayur Patel	Nirav Shah
Milan Shah	Rahil Shah	Uday Shah
Dhruvin Shah	Vishal Shah	Mala Chaudhary

## Serving with Bhaav:

### Anumodna to Volunteers

In the middle of a scorching desert, under the blazing afternoon sun, a traveler—drenched in sweat—is rushing ahead, almost running. He is eager to reach a distant Jain temple in time for the final evening pratikraman (a ritual of reflection and repentance).

After much effort, he finally reaches the temple just as the sun begins to set. At the door, he sees a Maharaj Saheb (Jain monk) stepping out. The Maharaj Saheb gently says, “Veenay (dear one), the pratikraman is over. You’ve arrived late.”

Hearing this, a deep sigh—a heartfelt “Aah”—escapes from the traveler’s chest. “O Bhagwan,” he laments, “I missed my pratikraman.”

Moved by the depth of emotion in that sigh, the Maharaj Saheb pauses and says, “Let’s do one thing. I will give you the punya (spiritual merit) of my pratikraman today, and in return, you give me your ‘Aah.’” The traveler agrees, and the exchange is made.

That night, the traveler sees Bhagwan (the divine) in his dream. Bhagwan tells him, “Veenay, you made a poor trade. The merit of your sincere, heartfelt ‘Aah’—born from the pain of missing pratikraman—was far greater than the merit of the ritual itself.”

Sometimes, what appears secondary—like a sincere feeling—can carry more spiritual weight than the ritual itself.

I’m reminded of this story often at JCNC, especially while observing the pure devotion with which so many volunteers serve the community. Seeing that I truly feel that the volunteering may have earned more punya - simply through their bhaav (intent and devotion).

***A heartfelt Anumodna and Thank You to the entire volunteer team at JCNC.***

## FELICITATIONS TO JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Ashok Domadia, Past JAINA President and Past JCNC EC/BOD Member*



Congratulations to JCNC EC, BOD and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for a grand celebration of our beloved JCNC Tirth's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary milestone.

It feels like yesterday when I was leading the Registration team for our JCNC Pratishta under tents across our temple. As first Religious Co-VP in 2000, we had initiated Monthly Bhavana and Monthly Namokar Mantra Japp. It is truly satisfying to see that tradition continues to date.

Over last 25 years, JCNC has experienced highest per centage growth in membership across USA/ Canada. Together, we have set a high bar and are frequently used as an example of how to do things right by JAINA and local Jain Centers. For example, we have successfully transitioned our JCNC EC and BOD to mostly youths, which is an incredible accomplishment. Youths are the foundation on which future generations will further grow JCNC Community over the next 25 years.

Best wishes for the spiritual, successful and fun filled 25<sup>th</sup> JCNC Anniversary Celebrations.



**Jayalakshmi Parmar**, a member of the JCNC for the past 10+ years designed Chicago Convention 2025 Logo.

*About the logo:*

In the timeless wisdom of Jain philosophy, we find the path to peace rooted in the fundamental principles of Ahimsa (Non-violence), Satya (Truth), Asteya (Non-stealing), Brahmacharya (Celibacy), and Aparigraha (Non-possession). These five vows are not mere precepts, but guiding lights that illuminate our journey toward harmony and understanding.

The logo, adorned with the symbols of unity in diversity, is imbued with the spirit of these sacred vows. Each color, curve, and element bears witness to the boundless diversity of creation, echoing the Jain principles of Anekantavada - the recognition of multiplicity and the acceptance of varying viewpoints. As we gaze upon the logo, let us be reminded of the timeless wisdom encapsulated within the five Jain vows -

The eternal truth that guides us on our journey towards unity in diversity as the path to peace.



# JAINA President - Bindesh Shah

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"To Preserve and Share Jain Philosophy and Way of Life"

**JAINA**  
Federation of Jain Associations in North America

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**Past President**  
Harsh Shah  
Harrington, DE - (302) 742 9252  
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**JJA Co-Chairs**  
Harshita Jain & Malini Shah  
mshah@jja.org

**JJA Co-Chairs**  
Shanti Malini & Aparna Talasila  
shanti@jja.org

**JAINA's Message for the Jain Center of Northern California's 50th Anniversary and the 25th Anniversary of the Milpitas Jain Temple**

Namaste and Jai Jinenata,

On behalf of JAINA, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) as it celebrates **50 years of founding** and **25 years of the Jain temple in Milpitas**. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the unwavering dedication of the community in preserving and promoting Jain values, spirituality, and service.

As a founding member of JAINA organization, JCNC has been a beacon of Jain dharma, fostering a space for **prayer, learning, and unity**. From its inception to the present day, it has nurtured generations in the principles of **Jainism**, ensuring that Jain teachings remain vibrant and accessible via **Pratikshala & many other channels**. The temple in Milpitas, the first in North America with **Pran Pratikshala Pratims**, stands as a sacred sanctuary, inspiring devotion and reflection.

As you gather to commemorate this occasion, we honor the **visionaries, volunteers, and leaders** who have shaped JCNC's journey. Their tireless efforts have strengthened the Jain community, fostering interfaith dialogue, cultural enrichment, and educational initiatives that resonate far beyond Northern California.

May this celebration serve as a moment of **gratitude and renewal**, inspiring future generations to uphold Jain traditions and contribute to a world guided by compassion and wisdom. JAINA stands in solidarity with JCNC, celebrating its achievements and looking forward to its continued growth.

With best wishes for a joyous and spiritually uplifting anniversary,



Bindesh Shah  
President, JAINA

Founded 1981, UN NGO, a Non-Profit Religious organization (501)(c)(3) 818 64 -126029

# JAINA First VP - Atul Shah

**JAINA CONVENTION 2025**

**Federation of Jain Associations in North America**  
(A Non-profit Tax Exempt Organization - IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) & 54 1286209)

**The 23rd Biennial JAINA Convention**  
Unity in Diversity : A Path to Peace  
Chicago | 03rd July - 06th July, 2025

Date: March 31, 2025

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firstvp@jaina.org  
(630) 501 4373

**Vipul Shah**  
(Co-Convener)  
secretary@jaina.org  
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**Jagat Shah**  
(Conv. Secretary)  
jagat.shah@jainainoffice.org  
(847) 668 3785

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Raju Shah  
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Shah Jain  
Shobha Vora  
Tejas Shah  
Ushma Shah



Dear President of Jain Center of Northern California,

On behalf of The Federation of Jain Association in North America (JAINA), it is both an honor and a privilege to extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Jain Center of Northern California on the momentous occasion of its 25th Anniversary.

This milestone not only signifies the passage of time but also reflects the unwavering dedication, commitment, and tireless efforts of the community in preserving and promoting the core principles of Ahimsa, Satya, and Anekantavada. For a quarter of a century, the Jain Center of Northern California has stood as a beacon of spiritual solace, cultural enrichment, and community service, providing an environment where individuals and families can deepen their connection with Jain values and practices.

As one of the pioneering centers that helped establish JAINA in 1981, JCNC played a pivotal role in fostering non-sectarian unity among Jains and Jain Centers across North America. As JAINA reflects on the many accomplishments of the Jain Center of Northern California, we also look forward to the continued growth and lasting impact of the temple on future generations. The spirit of unity, service, and devotion that this center embodies serves as an inspiration to Gen-X and Jain communities across the nation and worldwide.

This 25th anniversary serves as a reminder of our shared heritage and strengthens our collective commitment to upholding the Jain teachings of peace, compassion, and non-violence.

With warm regards and in the spirit of Jain Dharma, JAINA extends its congratulations to all the members, supporters, and volunteers who have contributed to making this journey possible. May the Jain Center continue to thrive and remain a source of inspiration for many more years to come

Sincerely,

Atul Shah  
JAINA First VP and 2025 JAINA Chicago Convention Convener

Mailing Address: 148 Trade Winds Cir. South Daytona FL 32119.

## **JCNC AND FEDERATION OF JAIN ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA (JAINA)**

Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA), is an umbrella organization of 72 Jain Centers representing 200,000 members in the USA and Canada; with a mission to preserve, practice, and promote Jain Dharma and Jain Way of Life. With the blessings of Acharya Sushil Kumarji and Gurudev Chitrabhanuji, JAINA was founded in 1981.

JCNC is a founding member of JAINA and JAINA's registered address is that of JCNC – 722 S Main St, Milpitas, CA 95035.

JCNC hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> biennial JAINA Convention during July 4 to 6, 1991, at Stanford University, Stanford, CA. Convention theme was “Extending Jain Heritage to the Next Generation”. JCNC hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> biennial JAINA Convention during July 1 to 4, 2005 at Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA. Convention theme was “*Extending Jain Heritage in Western Environment*”.

JCNC hosted two conventions of Young Jains in America (YJA) an affiliate of JAINA. In 1996 JCNC hosted 2<sup>nd</sup> YJA Convention at San Francisco, CA. Convention theme was “Jainism: Integrating Philosophy & Practice”. In 2004 JCNC hosted 6<sup>th</sup> YJA convention at Santa Clara, CA with theme “*YJain? To see, To Know, To Realize*”.

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### **JAINA RATNA AWARDEES FROM JCNC**

The JAINA Ratna Award is the highest recognition awarded by JAINA for major long-term contributions to the promotion of Jain religion and its principles. The first such award was given in 1989. Over the past 35 years 18 JAINA Ratna Awards have been given. Two JCNC life benefactors – Girish Shah was given award during JAINA Convention at Houston, TX in July 2011 and Prem Jain was given award during JAINA virtual convention in July 2021 - were awarded JAINA Ratna award for their exceptional services.



*Girish Shah accepted JAINA Ratna Awards during Houston, TX Convention in July 2011*



*Prem Jain accepted JAINA Ratna Awards during virtual convention in July 2021*

## **JAINA ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDEES FROM JCNC**

JAINA Adult Recognition Award is given in recognition of community services, displaying unselfish devotion for the advancement of Jain Faith and other significant personal achievements and for JAINA, local center, YJA and YJP.

From JCNC, Pravin Turakhia, Yogesh Bapna and Biren Shah were honored with **JAINA Adult Recognition Award**.



*Pravin Turakhia, 2009 JAINA Convention, Los Angeles, CA*



*Yogesh Bapna, 2023 JAINA Convention, Lakeland FL*



*Biren Shah, 2025 JAINA Convention, Chicago IL*

## **JAINA YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARDEE FROM JCNC**

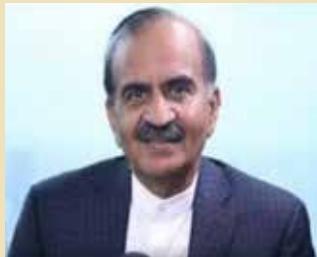
JAINA Youth Recognition Award is given in recognition of contributions to YJA or YJP and/or JAINA, participation in youth activities at the local Jain center and other significant personal achievements and community services.

From JCNC, **Komal Shah** was honored with **JAINA Youth Recognition Award** in 2013.



## **JAINA PRESIDENTS FROM JCNC**

*Two JCNC life members served as JAINA President.*



*Prem Jain, JAINA President (2013-2015)*



*Ashok Domadia, JAINA President (2015-2017)*

## **JAINA DIRECTORS FROM JCNC 2025-2027 TERM**



*Biren Shah*



*Yogesh Bapna*



*Nayan Jain*

COMPLIMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS  
to the

**Jain Center of Northern California**

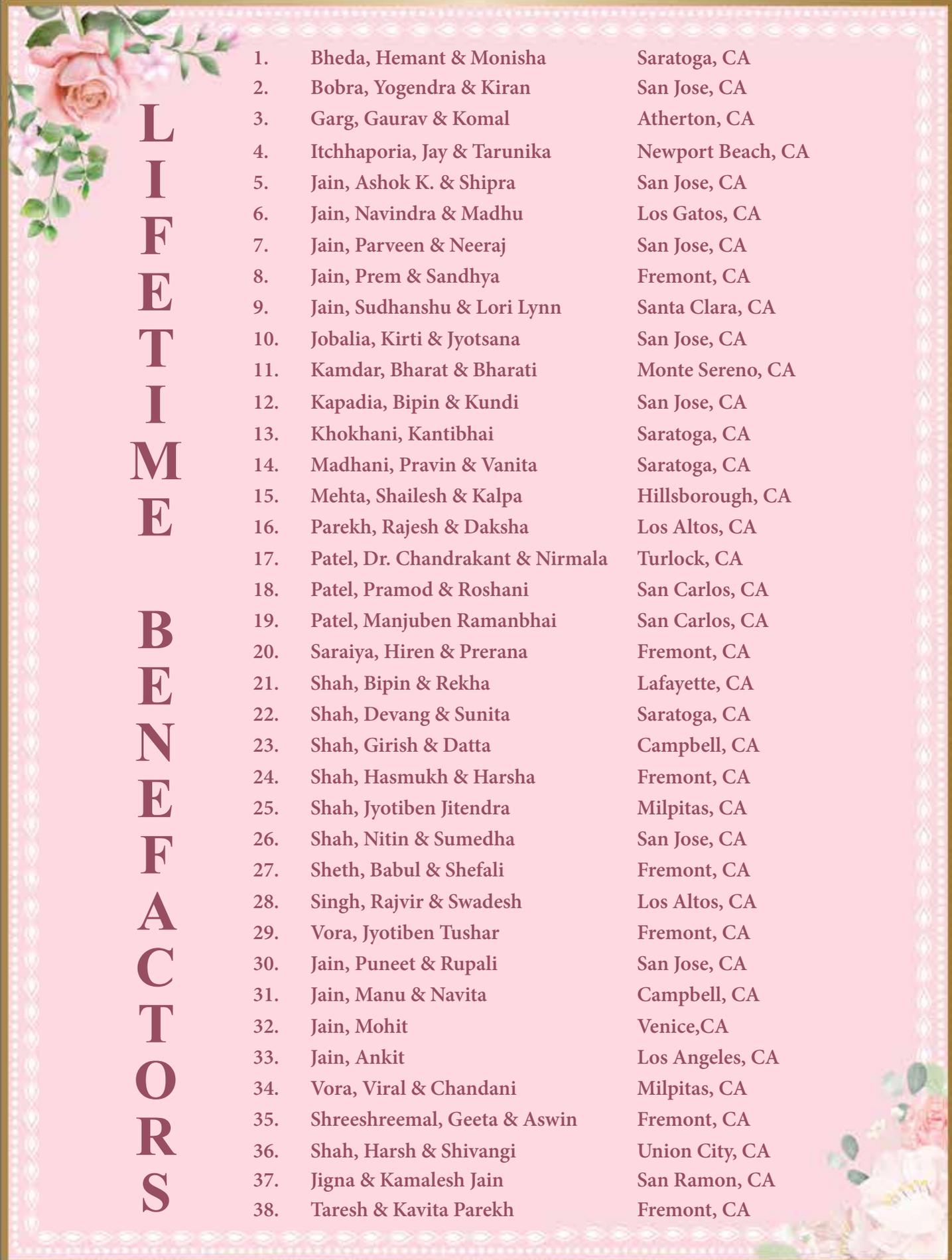
for Celebrations of it's

.....  
**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
.....



-Visnagar(Gujarat) aur Fremont(California) ke Nivasi  
-Vipul, Anamika, Rushali and Anvi Kothari





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1. Bheda, Hemant & Monisha Saratoga, CA
2. Bobra, Yogendra & Kiran San Jose, CA
3. Garg, Gaurav & Komal Atherton, CA
4. Itchhaporia, Jay & Tarunika Newport Beach, CA
5. Jain, Ashok K. & Shipra San Jose, CA
6. Jain, Navindra & Madhu Los Gatos, CA
7. Jain, Parveen & Neeraj San Jose, CA
8. Jain, Prem & Sandhya Fremont, CA
9. Jain, Sudhanshu & Lori Lynn Santa Clara, CA
10. Jobalia, Kirti & Jyotsana San Jose, CA
11. Kamdar, Bharat & Bharati Monte Sereno, CA
12. Kapadia, Bipin & Kundi San Jose, CA
13. Khokhani, Kantibhai Saratoga, CA
14. Madhani, Pravin & Vanita Saratoga, CA
15. Mehta, Shailesh & Kalpa Hillsborough, CA
16. Parekh, Rajesh & Daksha Los Altos, CA
17. Patel, Dr. Chandrakant & Nirmala Turlock, CA
18. Patel, Pramod & Roshani San Carlos, CA
19. Patel, Manjuben Ramanbhai San Carlos, CA
20. Saraiya, Hiren & Prerana Fremont, CA
21. Shah, Bipin & Rekha Lafayette, CA
22. Shah, Devang & Sunita Saratoga, CA
23. Shah, Girish & Datta Campbell, CA
24. Shah, Hasmukh & Harsha Fremont, CA
25. Shah, Jyotiben Jitendra Milpitas, CA
26. Shah, Nitin & Sumedha San Jose, CA
27. Sheth, Babul & Shefali Fremont, CA
28. Singh, Rajvir & Swadesh Los Altos, CA
29. Vora, Jyotiben Tushar Fremont, CA
30. Jain, Puneet & Rupali San Jose, CA
31. Jain, Manu & Navita Campbell, CA
32. Jain, Mohit Venice, CA
33. Jain, Ankit Los Angeles, CA
34. Vora, Viral & Chandani Milpitas, CA
35. Shreeshreemal, Geeta & Aswin Fremont, CA
36. Shah, Harsh & Shivangi Union City, CA
37. Jigna & Kamalesh Jain San Ramon, CA
38. Taresh & Kavita Parekh Fremont, CA

Shri Rushabdevaye Namah

# *Celebrating*

## Extraordinary Milestones Together

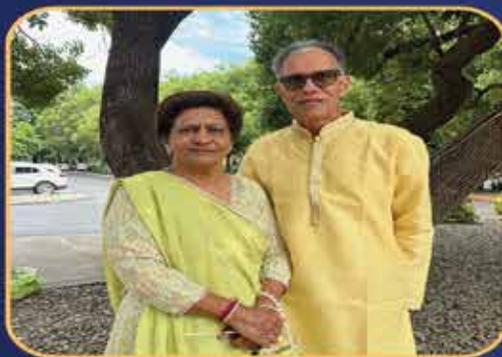
### JCNC

JCNC HAS TRULY BEEN A SECOND HOME FOR OUR FAMILY, ESPECIALLY OUR PARENTS, MUKUL AND ANJU SHAH. OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE CHERISHED COUNTLESS LIFELONG MEMORIES WITH THE MOST RECENT HIGHLIGHT BEING OUR PARENTS 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. MAY JCNC CONTINUE TO INSPIRE TOGETHERNESS, FOSTER SPIRITUAL GROWTH, AND CREATE LASTING MEMORIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

### OUR PARENTS

CONGRATULATIONS ON 50 YEARS OF LOVE, RESILIENCE, AND PARTNERSHIP—A GOLDEN JOURNEY THAT HAS SHAPED OUR FAMILY IN COUNTLESS WAYS. YOUR DEDICATION TO JCNC REFLECTS THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FAITH AND COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

BEST WISHES TO JCNC AND OUR AMAZING PARENTS ON THEIR WONDERFUL MILESTONES!



PRATITI, RAJAT & SOHUM  
CHINTAN, TRISHA & EVA

# The Making of the Jain Bhawan

From Vision to Reality: A Journey of Collective Faith, Perseverance and Harmony

By Parveen Jain

JCNC Chairman and President of Jain Bhawan Committee (1995-2000)

The Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) is a vibrant, forward-thinking community deeply rooted in Jain values and spiritual commitment. Time and again, JCNC has championed pioneering initiatives that reflect both its progressive spirit and its rich dharmic legacy. Jain Bhawan stands as a shining embodiment of these values and the enduring spirit that guides JCNC's work.

The vision of establishing a place of worship and a central area for social and cultural gatherings was seeded when Northern California Jain community first hosted Ācārya Sushil Kumar in the mid-1970s. Yet, as with all auspicious endeavors, such milestones unfold only at their destined time. For Jain Bhawan, that moment arrived with the formation of a new Executive Committee led by Parveen Jain in January 1995. The new Executive Committee, in its inaugural meeting in January 1995, made building the Jain Bhawan its top priority.

## Phase-1: Attempts to Buy an Existing Building

In early 1995, a dedicated Jain Bhawan Committee was formed, and a preliminary requirements document was drafted. The initial focus was on acquiring an existing building that had an acceptable historical and operational background aligned with Jain values. The plan was to renovate such a facility to meet JCNC's needs. After an extensive search, the committee recommended purchasing an office building in Milpitas. However, the offer was withdrawn due to a non-negotiable easement that permitted the transport of meat and alcohol products through part of the property—rendering it unsuitable for Jain use.

## Phase-2: Decision to Build Jain Bhawan from Grounds Up

In the fall of 1996, with unanimous support from the community at a JCNC town hall meeting, the Jain Bhawan Committee outlined a significant shift in its approach and objectives. From that point forward, the Jain Bhawan Committee, JCNC leadership and community embarked on an exciting new journey—to construct Jain Bhawan from the ground up: a spiritual and religious sanctuary that has enriched our lives since its inauguration in 2000.



*A Fundraising Event*

We expanded the Jain Bhawan Committee (JBC) and initiated a mission to find a parcel of land that met our criteria—suitable location and size, and historical alignment with the principles of non-violence. Within a few weeks, we identified the property at 722 S. Main Street in Milpitas. Prior to making the offer, we consulted with City of Milpitas officials to ensure that, with full compliance on our part, there would be no impediments from the city to our plans for Jain Bhawan. Having obtained a positive response from the city, we executed the purchase agreement for \$806,880 on December 11, 1996, marking the formal initiation

of the Jain Bhawan project. The expediency with which the land was found as served an indicator that our time had arrived.

The essence of religion is non-violence, truthfulness,  
purity of mind, and self-control.

To err is human, to forgive is divine! All souls are alike and  
potentially divine. None is superior or inferior!

-- Lord Mahavir --



*Let us celebrate the 2025 JCNC anniversary with  
a spirit of liveliness & enthusiasm*

**BEST WISHES FOR GRAND SUCCESS OF**

**2025 JCNC ANNIVERSARY**

**- JYOTI TUSHAR VORA**

**SHAILEY, NIKET, SUNIT & LOGAN**

With the signed purchase agreement in our hand, we set out to raise the funds needed to acquire the property. At our very first fundraising event during *Paryuṣana* 1996, we raised \$400,000 in pledges. Through continued efforts, that amount grew to approximately \$1,250,000 by year's end. With sufficient funds to cover the land cost, we closed the transaction with full payment on April 11, 1997. JCNC now proudly owned the land that would become the future home of Jain Bhawan.

### **Jain Bhawan Committee**

Soon after, the Jain Bhawan Committee was restructured with a corporate-style framework to streamline tasks and maximize efficiency. Each committee member formed their own subcommittee, enlisting dedicated volunteers energized with a vision of having our Jain temple. Each subcommittee included one or two young, U.S.-born Jains in each subcommittee – the young volunteers played active roles in their respective subcommittees.

<b>Jain Bhawan Committee</b>	
<b>Function</b>	<b>Team Leader(s)</b>
President	Parveen Jain
Secretary	Srenik Mehta
Fundraising	Kundi Kapadia, Girish Shah, Prem Jain and Bipin Shah
Construction	Bipin Shah
Temple & Religious Planning	Manhar Shah
India Project	Jay Itchhaporia
Finance	Bharat Kamdar
Marketing & Public Relations	Jay Kamdar and Pravin Turakhia
Ethics	Harendra Shah
Legal Counsel	Nita Itchhaporia
Real Estate & Special Projects	Chandra Parekh
Special Projects	Pramod Patel, Devang Shah, Jashvant Shah
Executive Committee Presidents	Jashvant Shah (1997-98) and Jitendra Shah (1999-2000)

### **JCNC and Jain Bhawan Operational Objectives**

To ensure an elegant temple design that honored all Jain traditions and supported the long-term sustainability of Jain Bhawan's operations, the Jain Bhawan Committee drafted the following high-level objectives, which were approved by the community:

1. Strictly adhere to Jain principles while maintaining the sanctity of the temple.
2. Build an authentic Jain temple based on Jain Vāstu Śāstra and traditional architecture.
3. Create a non-sectarian Jain Bhawan that accommodates the five widely accepted Jain traditions, allowing everyone to practice harmoniously in their preferred manner without infringing upon others' beliefs.
4. Ensure equal access to Jain Bhawan for Jains of all backgrounds, languages, regions of origin, and sectarian beliefs.



*With Blessings from Arihant Bhagwan  
Three Generations of Faith !!*



BEST WISHES TO JCNC



GRATEFUL TO  
JCNC

FOR KEEPING JAIN  
VALUES ALIVE IN  
OUR HEARTS AND  
HOMES!!

*Nēora Samar  
Dhivani Dhīrumīn  
Minabēn  
Mahēshībhāī,  
Bhartībēn  
Manhārībhāī  
Shahī!*

*Shah Parivar!*

5. Treat everyone with equal respect, following appropriate protocols. All monks and scholars to be honored equally, and all community members to be treated with fairness, regardless of their accomplishments or contributions.
6. Design Jain Bhawan with future in mind meeting needs of next generations and fostering Jain way of life, while actively engaging young Jains at all levels of the organization.
7. In the temple area, no names to be temporarily or permanently displayed, except those of our Tīrthānkaras, the universally known Jain *Devīs* and *Devtās*, and Srimad Rājacandra, Prabhushriji, and Brahmachariji. Traditional inscriptions related to the sanctification (*prāṇa pratiṣṭhā* or *anjana śalākhā*) would appear on the back of the *pratimās*.
8. The temple configuration—all *pratimās* and displays—established at the time of Jain Bhawan’s inauguration (*pratiṣṭhā*) will remain unchanged for posterity.

### Blessings from and Consultation with *Ācāryas*

From the very early stages, we sought guidance and blessings from our esteemed Jain *ācāryas* in India – Ācārya Vardhaman Sagar Ji from Digambar tradition, Ācārya Padma Sagar Ji from Śvetāmbara Mūrtipūjaka tradition, Ācārya Shiv Muni Ji from Śvetāmbara Sthānakavāsī tradition, and Ācārya Mahapragya Ji from Śvetāmbara Terāpantha tradition. Additionally, we consulted our local spiritual guides from the Srimad Rajchandra Mumukshu tradition.

### The Project Business Plan

After acquiring the land in April 1997, the Jain Bhawan Committee developed a comprehensive Jain Bhawan Business Plan outlining the project scope, cost estimates, projected timeline and milestones, fundraising strategy, and other essential components. The objective was to design a Jain Bhawan that would meet the long-term needs of the community. To ensure the project’s success, the team decided to hire professionals for critical tasks such as architecture and construction, creating an optimum blend of volunteers and professionals. Notably, we invited the renowned Sampura Family—Jain temple builders for generations—to collaborate with us in creating a design based on Jain Vāstu Śāstra. Our chief architect visited several Jain temples across India to deepen his understanding and inspiration. Additionally, we developed a timeline of major religious events related to Jain temple construction to ensure their alignment with key phases of the project.

### The *Bhūmī Pūjana* Ceremony

We held the first significant event, the *Bhūmī Pūjana* (land consecration ceremony), on November 15, 1997. The date was fixed in consultation with the *ācāryas*, and the ceremony was performed by H.H. Jin Chandra Ji Maharaj.

On the *Bhūmī Pūjana* day, we resolved to recite the *Ṇamokāra Mantra Jāpa* as frequently as possible at the Jain Bhawan Site throughout the project. Additionally, it was suggested that from that day until the project’s completion, someone from our community would observe a fast each day. Remarkably, over the span of 994 days—from November 15, 1997, to August 5, 2000—our community collectively observed more than 3000 fasts along with multiple *varṣī tapas*.



*Himatbhai Dagli's Varṣī Tapa Pāraṇā during Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava. One of many tapas by JCNC community*

**Congratulations and Compliments to  
Jain Center of Northern California for  
Celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

**Best Wishes**  
**Kapadia Insurance**  
(408) 280-7878



*"A non-religious person when awakened would make others sleep,  
therefore his sleeping is good.*

*A religious person when awakened will awaken others,  
therefore his awakening is good."*

**– Mahavira**

## The Temple and Jain Bhawan Building Design

After the *Bhūmī Pūjana* ceremony, our attention shifted to the design and architecture of the building. While the Construction Committee worked on the building design, the Religious Committee began drafting religious configuration of the temple area upstairs, ensuring that needs of all five traditions are adequately addressed while maintaining the temple's aesthetic appeal. Our temple features forty-eight images as listed below:

- *Gabhārā* (the main altar): Seven *tīrthaṅkara pratimās* of *Mūlanāyaka* Tīrthaṅkara Adinath, Digambar *pratimās* of Tīrthaṅkara Mahavira Swami, Tīrthaṅkara Shantinath, Tīrthaṅkara Chandraprabh Swami, and Śvetāmbara *pratimās* of Tīrthaṅkara Parshwanath, Tīrthaṅkara Munisuvarat, and Tīrthaṅkara Vasupujya,
- All twenty-four tīrthaṅkara, Shri Simandar Swami and Shri Gautam Swami *pratimās*,
- *Raṅgamandapa*: Nine *devī-devatā pratimās* of Chakreshwari Devi, Padmāvati Devi, Saraswati Devi, Ghantakarn Mahavira, Ambika Devi, Mahalaxmi Devi, Dharnendra Dev, Manibhadra Dev, and Nakoda Bhairav Dev, and Bhagwan Bahubali *pratimā*
- *Bhakti* Area: Shrimad Ji *pratimā*, and three *citrapaṭas* of Srimad Ji, Brahamchari Ji, and Prabhushree Ji, and the *Ṇamokāra Mantra citrapaṭa*



*Mūlanāyaka Tīrthaṅkara Adinatha pratima  
just after Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava*

As part of our temple designing process, we made multiple visits to India to seek guidance from our four revered *ācāryas*. With their blessings and spiritual insight, all four *ācāryas* wholeheartedly approved our temple design.

Following traditional Jain astrological principles, Ācārya Padma Sagar Ji recommended Tīrthaṅkara Adinatha as the *mūlanāyaka* and provided guidance on the appropriate size for the *pratimā* – the largest inside the *gabhārā*.

In addition, Ācārya Padma Sagar Ji advised that the Śvetāmbara side include *pratimās* of Tīrthaṅkara Parshwanath, Tīrthaṅkara Munisuvrat, and Tīrthaṅkara Vasupujya, with the *pratimā* of Tīrthaṅkara Parshwanath to be crafted slightly larger than the other two.

For the Digambar side, Ācārya Vardhaman Sagar Ji suggested the inclusion of Tīrthaṅkara Mahavira, Tīrthaṅkara Shantinath, and Tīrthaṅkara Chandraprabh *pratimās*, with the *pratimā* of Tīrthaṅkara Mahavira to be crafted slightly larger than the other two.

After receiving the blessings and approvals from the revered *ācāryas*, we sought and obtained the wholehearted approval from our community. Thereafter, the Board of Directors unanimously resolved to maintain this temple configuration unchanged for perpetuity.

## Śilānyāsa Ceremony

After finalizing the building and temple design, the decision was made to hold the *Śilānyāsa*—the sacred foundation stone-laying ceremony—on June 19, 1998. During this profoundly significant ceremony,



# Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Jain Bhawan!*

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We have been privileged and fortunate to be part of the wonderful, joyous journey of our Jain Bhawan. We joined Jain Milan in 1979. We have been supporting this great organization ever since then in various capacities. We have enjoyed countless cheerful and religious functions as Jain Milan transformed into JCNC. We are very proud of the new enthusiastic generation for keeping up the growth.

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Best Wishes-  
Bharati and Bharat Kamdar; Monte Sereno, CA  
Brinda, Akshay, Aanya, Arjun; Boston, MA  
Biren, Navreet, Reina and Riana; San Diego, CA

specially consecrated marble stones were placed beneath the site of the *Mūlanāyaka Pratimā* and at the four corners of the building. The stone beneath the *Mūlanāyaka Pratimā*—the main *śilā*—is considered to bear the temple’s entire spiritual weight and energy. The ceremony was conducted with great reverence by His Holiness Bhattarak Devendrakeerti Ji (now departed) of Humbja Math, Karnataka, India.

Of special significance, a copper pipe was mounted atop the main *śilā* to align precisely with the *maṇipūra* cakra (solar plexus or navel center) of the *Mūlanāyaka Pratimā*. This sacred connection facilitates the continuous flow of auspicious spiritual energy from the *pratimā* to the main *śilā*, thereby energizing and invigorating the entire temple structure. Notably, in 2010, to mark the tenth anniversary of Jain Bhawan, the *Samavaśaraṇa* was installed on the first floor, surrounding this copper pipe, further sanctifying its significance and central placement.

Following the *Śilānyāsa* ceremony, our attention turned toward securing the necessary approvals from the City of Milpitas for the temple’s design, architecture, and aesthetics—an essential step toward obtaining the final construction permit. From the earliest stages of the project, cultivated a positive, respectful relationships with city officials and political leaders, including the Mayor, City Manager, Fire Chief, and Police Chief. Through our professionalism, transparency, and collaborative spirit, we fostered a strong partnership built on mutual trust. As a result, city officials not only supported the project but championed it as their own during City Council meetings. This unprecedented level of endorsement greatly facilitated the approval process.

The Construction Committee undertook extensive diligence and selected a construction contractor who aligned with both the technical requirements and the project value. A noteworthy clause was included in the contract, explicitly stating that no meat products, alcohol, or cigarettes were to be consumed or brought onto the construction site during the project. It reflected our commitment to uphold the sanctity and spiritual integrity of the temple grounds. We were very pleased that the construction personnel honored this clause with full diligence and respect.

The next step after the *Śilānyāsa* ceremony was to initiate construction. However, before proceeding, we undertook a thorough financial review to ensure that we had sufficient funds and pledges to complete the project without any delays or interruptions, reflecting our deep commitment to both spiritual responsibility and financial prudence.

### Groundbreaking Ceremony

The Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on April 17, 1999, on an auspicious *mahūrata* (ceremonial timing) suggested by Ācārya Padma Sagar Ji. Holiness Bhattarak Devendrakeerti Ji presided over the ceremony invoking divine blessings.

A few weeks later, in June 1999, we initiated the process to cleanse the land and prepare it for the construction of Jain Bhawan.

Soon after, we traveled to India to place orders for the *pratimās* and various marble artifacts for the temple. These included the *gabhārā pratimās*, platform and its outer materials, small



*Groundbreaking Ceremony*



Wishing  
JCNC  
a happy

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Sumedha, Nitin, Sreya and Nilay Shah





*Cleaned and leveled Jain Bhawan grounds before Construction Start*

*pratimās* and *gokhalās* in the *gomati* and surrounding areas, the *Ṇamokāra Mantra paṭa*, the *raṅgamandapa*, and other intricate elements essential to the temple's design and spiritual ambiance. All the *gabhārā pratimās* and several small *pratimās* were hand-sculpted in Jaipur by skilled artisans, and the remaining small *pratimās* and all other marble artifacts were crafted by Trivedi Crafts Private Limited in Ahmedabad.

The Jain Bhawan building construction commenced on June 17, 1999.

### Recommendation for *Ānjana Śalākhā* and *Prāṇa Pratiṣṭhā* for the *Gabhārā Pratimās*

During one of our visits to India, Ācārya Padma Sagar Ji recommended that two of the Śvetāmbara *pratimās* in the *gabhārā*—*Mūlanāyaka* Tīrthaṅkara Adinatha and Tīrthaṅkara Parshwanath—be consecrated with



*Ācārya Vardhaman Sagar with Pratimās before Prāṇa Pratiṣṭhā Ceremony*

the highest level of religious sanctification in the Śvetāmbara *Mūrtipūjaka* tradition—the *ānjana śalākhā* ceremony. This sacred ritual is believed to imbue the *pratimās* with divine presence and spiritual energy.

On the same trip, Ācārya Vardhaman Sagar Ji advised us to consecrate the three Digambar *pratimās* in the *gabhārā*—Tīrthaṅkara Mahavira Swami, Tīrthaṅkara Shantinath, Tīrthaṅkara Chandraprabh Swami—with the *prāṇa pratiṣṭhā* ceremony thereby sanctifying them with the traditional ritual of invoking life force (*prāṇa*) into the *pratimās*.

Initially, there was some apprehension within our team and community due to the demanding nature of the daily practices required for a temple housing *ānjana śalākhā* and *prāṇa pratiṣṭhā pratimās*. These sanctified *pratimās* require a heightened level of ritual discipline, spiritual upkeep, and adherence to traditional worship protocols. However, after careful deliberation, spiritual reflection, and mutual persuasion, we reached a decision to proceed with this significant



*Ācārya Padma Sagar Ji with his Disciples in Ānjana Śalākhā Varghorā*

commitment. With this decision, Jain Bhawan became the first temple outside of India to house *pratimās* consecrated through *ānjana śalākhā* and *prāṇa pratiṣṭhā* ceremonies—marking a historic milestone in the global Jain diaspora.



*Tīrthaṅkara Mahavira and Tīrthaṅkara Parshwanath pratimās at Ānjana Śalākhā Ceremony Mandapa*

Ācārya Vardhamana Sagar Ji recommended February 6, 2000, for the *prāṇa pratiṣṭhā* ceremony under his guidance in Jaipur India. A large *prāṇa pratiṣṭhā samāroh* (consecration celebration) was held in Jaipur where over 1,000 local Jains



**JAIN VALUES: A PATH TO PEACE  
AND HARMONY**



**THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO ACHIEVE  
LIBERATION FROM THE CYCLE OF  
BIRTH AND DEATH**



**BE A LIGHT: SPREAD, JAIN PRINCIPLES  
FOR A BETTER WORLD**



**THE PURPOSE OF KNOWLEDGE  
IS TO TRANSFORM ONESELF**



**BEST WISHES FROM  
Mahir, Dhyanvi, Riya & Gautam Mehta  
Meena Chetan Mehta, Manjula Dheeraj Mehta**

participated. I was fortunate to be the only one to represent JCNC for this auspicious *prāṇa pratiṣṭhā* ceremony.

Ācārya Padma Sagar Ji recommended April 16, 2000, for the *Āñjana Śalākhā* ceremony under his guidance in Pune, India. A large *pratiṣṭhā* and *añjan śalākhā samāroh* (consecration celebration) was organized in Pune where over 4,000 local Jains participated. Approximately 50 of us flew in from the Bay area for this auspicious *āñjana śalākhā* ceremony.

### ***Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava Mahūrata***

In preparation for the temple's inauguration, we request Ācārya Padma Sagar Ji to provide the most auspicious date and time (*mahūrata*) for the *pratiṣṭhā mahotsava* for the Jain Bhawan. Drawing from traditional Jain astrological principles, he recommended August 5, 2000, between 10:34 and 10:40 a.m. Pacific Time. This divinely ordained window set the target completion date for the entire construction project—giving us less than 14 months from the commencement of construction to completion—an exceptionally tight timeline for a project of this scale and complexity. Thanks to meticulous planning, unwavering commitment, and extraordinary teamwork, our team rose to the challenge. With great pride and spiritual fulfillment, the *Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava* was held on the auspicious date provided by the Ācārya Ji.

### **Fundraising and Spending Strategy**

We developed an unprecedented fundraising and spending approach for the Jain Bhawan project.

- All the funds we raised were deposited in a single “Jain Bhawan Funds” depository without being earmarked for any specific tradition's needs.
- All expenses incurred were from this single depository with the sole focus on obtaining the highest quality of every entity within the temple and Jain Bhawan without any consideration for the number of individuals practicing a particular tradition.
- We declined to accept a substantial donation from India because it was specifically designated for a particular tradition.
- We decided to not display names in the temple area, except those of our divine figures.
- We decided to refrain from conducting any *ghī bolīs*—a traditional practice for religious ceremonies—during the *pratiṣṭhā mahotsava* to ensure that everyone from the community could participate, rather than just a few individuals.
- We created a system that enabled the interested community members to participate in multiple *pratiṣṭhā* activities, while simultaneously raising over 5 million dollars.
- Multiple family groups were invited to sign up for each religious ceremony. For instance, eleven families registered for the *paratishṭhā* ceremony of *Mūlanāyaka* Tīrthānkara Adinatha. Each family could designate two members to each of the multiple *pūjās* associated with consecration of each divine *pratimā*.
- *Paratishṭhā* ceremony of each divine entity involved multiple *pūjās*. For instance, there were five *pūjās* for each of the *gabhārā pratimās*. This arrangement ensured that everyone in the community could take religious benefit (*lābha*) of one or more *pūjās*.
- In a similar manner, multiple families signed up for each *ārtī* and *managal dīvo* activity.

This plan was made possible by our exceptionally united community that was harmonious and disregarded any differences in traditional background, language, or region of origin. We all participated with equal

*The Mehta Family  
celebrates bonds across generations thanks to*

**25 YEARS OF JCNC BHAWAN**



*May our collective spirit of compassion,  
non-violence, and seva continue to inspire future  
generations to achieve enduring success.*

**WITH BEST WISHES,  
PUSHPA & ROHIT, PRATIBHA & NIKUNJ, REEMU & SUHAS,  
RIDDHEE, AKSHAT, SHLOK AND VIHAAN**

enthusiasm in all religious ceremonies performed according to various traditions. We were all “Jains,” without any prefix – the foundation of our operational model.

This arrangement significantly increased the workload and effort for the organizing team, but the community thoroughly enjoyed this once-in-a-lifetime momentous event. The following table illustrates our fundraising strategy for the *pratiṣṭhā mahotsava*:

Divine Entity	Number of Entities	Requested Donation for each family group	Number of Families for Sign-up	Total Funds Raised
Mulnayak Adinath Bhagwan	1	\$50,000	11	\$550,000
Gabhara Large Pratima	2	\$50,000	9	\$900,000
Gabhara Small Pratima	4	\$50,000	7	\$1,400,000
Gomati Tirthankar Pratima	24	\$10,000	5	\$1,200,000
Rangmandap Simandhar Swami	1	\$10,000	5	\$50,000
Rangmandap Gautam Swami	1	\$10,000	5	\$50,000
Rangmandap Bahubali Swami Pratimas	1	\$10,000	5	\$50,000
Rangmandap Dev-Devi Pratimas	9	\$5,000	9	\$405,000
Bhakci-Sthanak Namokar Mantra Shila	1	\$40,000	5	\$200,000
Srimad Rajchandraji's Pratima	1	\$25,000	11	\$275,000
Srimad Rajchandraji's Chitrapat	1	\$20,000	11	\$220,000
Prabhushriji and Brahmachariji Chitrapat	2	\$10,000	11	\$220,000
	48		94	\$5,520,000

### **Jain Bhawan *Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava***

From early 2000, we started working on planning the Jain Bhawan *pratiṣṭhā mahotsava* (inauguration ceremony), which was scheduled for August 4-7, 2000. Given the extensive planning and execution involved for this 4-day event, we decided to expand our team by inviting additional volunteers to assist in both the planning and execution of the *pratiṣṭhā mahotsava*. Like the earlier committee members, each of the new members formed their own subcommittee to plan and execute the *mahotsava* activities. Our Jain Bhawan Committee continued to play a pivotal role in planning the *pratiṣṭhā* while simultaneously working on the construction project to ensure the completion of the Jain Bhawan construction before August 4, 2000.

#### **Additional Committee Members for Jain Bhawan *Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava* in 2000**

Religious Events Planning	Harendra Shah
Cultural Activities	Kirit Bavishi
Food	Chandu Desai (now departed) & Chadra Parekh
<i>Pratiṣṭhā</i> Site Planning	Hasmukh Shah
Procession ( <i>Varghorā</i> )	Hiren Saraiya, Smitin Mehta, Ritesh Shah & Prerana Saraiya

Celebrating a Journey of Faith, Family & Progress  
Heartfelt Wishes on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JCNC

Aswin Shreemal's Early Life: Born and raised in Andhra Pradesh to proud parents Genmall Jain and Ms. Shakuntala Jain, with roots deeply grounded in Jain values. A Chartered Accountant by profession, he began his career in Information Technology in 2002.

Family: Together with his wife Geeta Shreeshreemal, he is blessed with two wonderful children: Daughter- Astha Shreeshreemal, Son- Ayush Jain  
Professional Life: With over 20 years in the IT industry, his dedication and vision led to the founding of RevGurus Inc., a successful software services company.



*“Our entire family extends our warmest congratulations to the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) on its remarkable 25-year journey. May JCNC continue to inspire, unite, and uplift generations to come.”*

*— The Shreeshreemal Family*

To ensure the continuity of daily *pūjā* routines that is mandatory for *pratimās* with *anjan śalākḥā* and *prāṇa pratiṣṭhā*, we made arrangements to airlift all the *gabḥārā pratimās* from India to San Francisco, ensuring their arrival within the time window to not miss the *pūjā* rituals. All other *pratimās* and temple artifacts had arrived by June 2000. On July 28, 2000, the *gabḥārā pratimās* were brought into the temple. The community gathered joyfully for a spontaneous celebration marking the *Gṛha Praveṣa* (ceremonial home entry) of the *Mūlanāyaka*—the spiritual king of the temple—and the other sacred *pratimās*. This heartfelt moment was



*Pratimās Arriving at Jain Bhawan just before Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava*

filled with devotion, gratitude, and collective anticipation for the upcoming consecration

The first set of religious activities like *Kumbha Sthāpana* and *Navgraha Pūja* were performed on July 29, 2000.

The team meticulously planned a one-of-a-kind 4- day *pratiṣṭhā* ceremony that perfectly complemented the grandeur of our Jain Bhawan. We set up a special tent city across the street from the Jain Bhawan to accommodate up to 1,000 people for seated



*108 Ladies in colorful saris carrying kalaś in Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava Varghorā*

lunches and dinners. The tent city also features a large stage for cultural programs, and grounds for *garba* dance and other activities with over 3,000 attendees.

The *Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava* program featured authentic religious ceremonies performed by over thirty male and female monks and other



*Floats in Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava Varghorā*

esteemed religious dignitaries from India and North America. A traditional *garba* dance with over three thousand participants, an elegant and entertaining cultural program and a Main Street procession (*vaḍghorā*) were showcased. The *Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava* concluded with a closing ceremony that brought together city, county, and state political and executive leaders.



*Religious dignitaries in Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava Varghorā*

Throughout the *Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava*, we served four freshly cooked meals each day, each featuring a unique, thoughtfully curated Jain menu. The event witnessed an extraordinary turnout, with daily participation in the thousands and a peak attendance of approximately 10,000 people on August 6th. This remarkable feat was fueled by widespread word-of-mouth and growing reverence for Jain Bhawan's spiritual presence and architectural splendor. People from diverse backgrounds were drawn to experience the sacredness of *darśana*, making the

# Ahimsa is not just live and let live. It's live and help live.

Most students go through college without ever learning about nonviolence. Universities feed them animal products daily while never mentioning Ahimsa. At Allied Scholars for Animal Protection (ASAP, 501c3), we are changing that.



## How We Do It

### Outreach

Daily conversations bring students into local ASAP chapters and away from animal exploitation.

### Education and empowerment

We connect students with mentors in medicine, law, and business to inspire careers rooted in compassion.

### Dining reform

We help students lead campaigns to replace animal products so campus menus reflect nonviolence.

**If you are a student ready to promote Ahimsa and veganism, we got you!**



Dr. Pritesh Mutha, renowned Jain doctor, spoke with our medical and pre-med students at Texas A&M University about plant-based diets.



Dr. Faraz Harsini, CEO of Allied Scholars, has spoken at schools across India and the US about the urgency of animal rights.

**We work where future leaders are formed.** Doctors, lawyers, policymakers, and entrepreneurs are shaped in college. That's where values must shift.

ASAP brings Ahimsa to campuses through education, community, and action. We focus on ethical veganism, environmental protection, and public health.

**Our model is tested, cost effective, scalable, and already showing results.**

Founded by Dr. Faraz Harsini, a biomedical and food system scientist and a human rights activist from Iran, ASAP is rooted in science, compassion, and justice. Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world..." Jains prove that every day. Though few, they are focused, educated, and impactful. That is exactly the kind of influence we are building on campuses.

**DONATE**

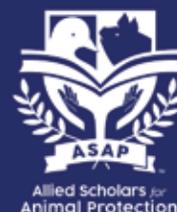


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Contact Dr. Harsini: [faraz@alliedscholars.org](mailto:faraz@alliedscholars.org)

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*Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava* not only a religious milestone, but a unifying and transformative moment for the broader community.

Our most memorable event of the *Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava* was the *pratiṣṭhā* ceremony on August 5th morning. Over 800 people gathered in our temple area upstairs, forming lines in front of each divine figure. Each divine



*JCNC devotees in temple during Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava*

figure had 5 to 11 family sign-ups, each with 2 to 4 benefit seekers (*lābhārthīs*). Given that the entire *pratiṣṭhā* ceremony for all 48 divine figures had to be completed within only 6 minutes—10:34-10:40am—we had to devise a flawless execution plan, which included multiple community-level rehearsals. We were fortunate



*First Dhvajārohaṇa during Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava*

to have an extraordinary cooperative community—a trait that still exists today—that allowed the entire *pratiṣṭhā* ceremony to



*Local and state dignitaries at Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava Closing Ceremony*

be completed on time. All the religious dignitaries were astounded by this and remarked that in their experience of presiding over hundreds of such



*Devotees around Jain Bhawan during a Petal Spray event*

ceremonies in past, they had never witnessed the one like ours.



*Ribbon cutting symbolizing Jain Bhawan opening*

The Jain Bhawan *Pratiṣṭhā Mahotsava* was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience—a culmination of deep faith, tireless dedication, and collective spirit. It marked not only the consecration of a sacred place, but also the awakening of a powerful spiritual legacy that continues to inspire generations to come

### Final Remarks

The wise remind us: humans do not build temples—only divinity or *śrīṣṭī*, does. Guided by humility, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to Jain Dharma, we become instruments of celestial energy. An invitation to lead or serve in creating a sacred monument like Jain Bhawan is not a task, but a heavenly reward—a manifestation of good karma across lifetimes. We may plan and work hard, but temples like Jain Bhawan arise only when divinity meets human effort.

::Shree Mridul Parshwanathay Namah::

# Mridul Dham



**With Blessings**

from

**Pujya Acharya Gurudev Shri  
Ashok Sagar Ji Maharasahib**

## **Congratulations**

Jain Center of Northern California  
on 25th Anniversary of Jain Bhawan  
Thank You To All Volunteers

### **Mehta Family**

Kamlesh & Ree  
Sunnyvale, California

Kuldeep & Kalpana | Kiran & Sunita  
Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh

**Mridul Dham, 567/A Katju Nagar Ratlam, 457001 Madhya Pradesh, India**  
Contact: +91 94796 92293 | +1 408 839 8996

As we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Jain Bhawan's *pratiṣṭhā*, we are reminded of the early days—shaped by love, friendship, camaraderie, reverence, and wonder. The project brought immense

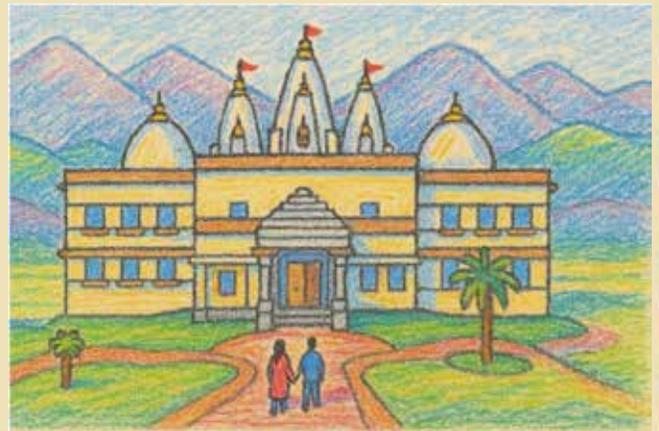


challenges, but also miracles that carried us through. It demanded our collective *puruṣārtha*—selfless dedication, mutual respect, and unity. Many of us paused our personal and professional lives, united by a shared goal. Our community was a constant source of strength. We learned that while...

*Jain Bhawan is not merely a structure built with bricks and concrete—it is infused with the spiritual energy of countless Namokāra Mantra jāpa, tapas, varṣī tapa, upvāsa, aiṃbil, and more. Its sanctity lies in the love, respect, and harmony that bound us together. Today, it stands as a true abode of divine vibrations and spiritual purpose—a reminder that our actions must be guided not only by outward discipline, but by internalized purity and Genuity of bhāva.*

Let us take a moment at this auspicious milestone—the twenty-fifth anniversary of the momentous Jain Bhawan *Pratiṣṭhā*—to honor the visionary leaders of JCNC since 1975, the unwavering commitment of the Jain Bhawan Committee, and every member of our community—adult, youth, and child—who contributed selflessly during 1995-2000. The realization of *the Making of the Jain Bhawan* proves that even the unimaginable becomes possible when we act without ego, united in heart and purpose. Jain Bhawan remains a shining example of that eternal truth.

Jai Jinendra !!



## Bavishi Family

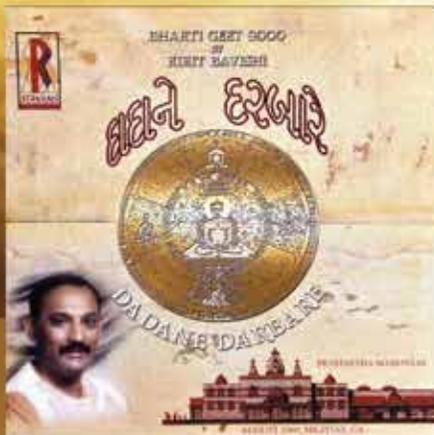
Salutes & Congratulates JCNC Volunteers For Painting  
Our Jain Sangh With Spiritual Silver Lining of Jainism  
Over 25 Years

Anumodana - Anumodana - Anumodana

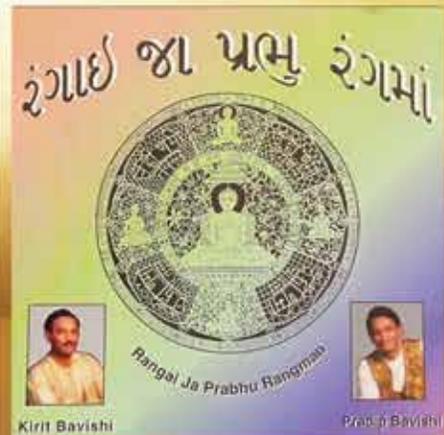


**BEST WISHES FROM THE BAVISHI FAMILY**

**KIRIT - KIRTIDA - ANAYA - PUNIT - REEMA - AASHVI - PALAK -SAGAR**



We, the children of *Shri Shetrunjay Tirth* take humble pride by sharing and promoting "Jin Maitri" & "Jin Bhakti" through two spiritual albums, one "**DADA NE DARBARE**" as PRABHAVANA celebrating JCNC Pratishtha 2000; and other "**RANGAI JA PRABHU RANGMAN**" dedicating to Jainism to create peace and harmony



# ગૌરવગાથા: "જૈન મિલન" થી મંદિર સુધીની યાત્રા - By Pragna Dadbhawala- Author, Writer and Stage Artist



"જ્યાં શ્રદ્ધા હોય ત્યાં માર્ગ મળે છે, અને જ્યાં સંકલ્પ હોય ત્યાં સંસ્થા ઊભી થાય છે." ઉત્તર કેલિફોર્નિયામાં વસેલા થોડા જૈન પરિવારના હૃદયમાં, સંસ્કૃતિ અને શ્રદ્ધાના તંતુઓએ જે સંકલ્પનું બીજ રોપ્યું હતું, તે આજે એક વૈભવી વૃક્ષ રૂપે આપણી સમક્ષ ઊભું છે. જેનું નામ છે Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC)।

આ મંદિર માત્ર પથ્થરોની ગોઠવણ નથી, પણ પવિત્ર ભાવના અને ભક્તિના સ્તંભો પર ઊભેલી જીવંત સંસ્થા છે. જે આજે પોતાની ૨૫મી વર્ષગાંઠની ઉજવણી કરી રહી છે.

આયામોની શરૂઆત ૧૯૭૫માં થઈ હતી. ત્યારે LinkedIn કે WhatsApp નહોતા, પણ હૃદય જોડાતા હતા. સિલિકોન વેલીમાં વસેલા જૈન પરિવારો ઓફિસના મિલન, ટેક સેમિનાર કે સામાજિક મેળાવડામાં એકબીજાને મળ્યા, ઓળખ્યા અને એક થવાનો સંકલ્પ કર્યો. એ મિલનને નામ મળ્યું — "જૈન મિલન"! શરૂઆતમાં પર્યુષણ, દિવાળી અને મહાવીર જયંતિ જેવા પ્રસંગોમાં મેળાવડા થવા લાગ્યા. ધાર્મિક વિદ્વાનોની ઉપસ્થિતિમાં પ્રવચનો યોજાતા ગયા. આમ, જૈન મંડળનું મૂળ સ્વરૂપ ઊભું થયું. સમય જતાં આ મિલને નવી દિશા લીધી.

૧૯૯૪માં એક અગમ્ય-અદ્ભૂત ક્ષણ આવી. આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય ખ્યાતિવાળાં પૂજ્ય ગુરુદેવ શ્રી સુશીલકુમારજી મહારાજે પોતાના અંતિમ દિવસોમાં JCNCના સ્થાપક સભ્ય શ્રી પરવીન જૈનને દિવ્ય સંદેશ આપ્યો: "તમારે અહીં જૈન સમુદાયને સંગઠિત કરી મંદિર બનાવવું જોઈએ".

આ શબ્દો માત્ર સંદેશ નહોતો, એ તો ચૈતન્યને શિવારૂપ આપવાનો આદેશ હતો. પરવીનભાઈએ આ સંદેશને જીવન મંત્ર બનાવ્યો અને સૌને સાથે જોડ્યા. સભ્યોના હૃદયમાં એક જ લક્ષ્ય ઉગી નીકળ્યું: એક એવું મંદિર બનાવવું કે જે માત્ર દેરાસર દર્શન પૂરતું ન રહે, પણ સમૂહજીવન, શિક્ષણ અને સાધનાનું કેન્દ્ર બને. મંદિરમાં સભાખંડ હોવો જોઈએ જ્યાં જ્ઞાન વહે, પર્યુષણ જેવી પ્રવૃત્તિઓ ઝળહળે. રવિવારની શાળા માટે વર્ગખંડ હોય જ્યાં આવતી પેઢી જૈન મૂલ્યો શીખે અને એ બધાનો એક જ હેતુ: "જૈન સિદ્ધાંતોના આચરણથી જગત કલ્યાણ".

આ સંકલ્પ સાકાર કરવા ભંડોળ ઉગાડવામાં આવ્યું. સભ્યો એકમન, એક વિચાર સાથે કાર્યરત બન્યા. સ્થળની શોધ, આયોજન, નક્શા બનાવવાનું ચાલતું રહ્યું. વર્ષો બાદ એક વૈભવી મંદિર ઊભું થયું, મૂળનાયકની પ્રતિષ્ઠા સાથે, સમોવસરણ સહિત આરાધનાનું પવિત્ર આલય, પ્રવચન હોલ અને બાળકો માટે શિક્ષણ કેન્દ્ર. બધું જ એક છત્ર હેઠળ ઊભું કરાયું.

*Congratulations*  
to the  
**Jain Center of Northern California**  
on the temple's  
*25<sup>th</sup>* Anniversary !



**The temple has been a source of peace,  
inspiration and spiritual upliftment for the entire  
Jain Community and will continue to do  
so for countless generations to come!**

**Mohini Jain & family**

JCNC નું વિશિષ્ટ મિશન છે, **આપણી આવતી પેઢીમાં જૈન ધર્મના મૂળ ઉતારવા.** આજે Youth Education Program દ્વારા બાળકોને જીવનના પડકારો સામે જૈન મૂલ્યો સાથે ઊભા રહેવા માટે તાલીમ આપવામાં આવે છે.

ઉત્તર અમેરિકાનું પ્રથમ એવું મંદિર બનવાનું ગૌરવ JCNCને પ્રાપ્ત થયું છે જ્યાં વિવિધ પંથોની મૂર્તિ ની એક સાથે પ્રાણ પ્રતિષ્ઠા કરવામાં આવી છે. અહીં શ્વેતાંબર, દિગંબર, સ્થાનકવાસી, તેરાપંથી અને શ્રીમદ રાજચંદ્ર ના અનુયાયી ભક્તો એક સાથે ભક્તિમાં લીન થાય છે.

JCNC માત્ર પથ્થરોથી બનેલું મંદિર નહીં પણ એક સર્વાંગી ભક્તિ-સાધનાનું કેન્દ્ર છે. જ્યાં પૂજન-અર્ચન થાય છે, પ્રવચનો ગૂંજે છે, અને શિક્ષણના ઝરણાં વહે છે. અહીંની પ્રવૃત્તિઓમાં ચેરીટી ડ્રાઇવ્સ, પર્યાવરણ ઝુંબેશ, યંગ એડલ્ટ લીડરશીપ અને સામાજિક શિબિર નો સમાવેશ થાય છે. આ બધું જૈન ધર્મના આધુનિક પ્રતિબિંબ રૂપે જીવંત છે.

આજના દિવસે JCNC આપણું આધ્યાત્મિક ઘર બની ગયું છે. જ્યાં ભક્તિ, જ્ઞાન અને સંગઠનની ત્રિવેણી વહે છે. જ્યાં દીવા પ્રજ્વલિત થાય છે, મંત્રો ગૂંજે છે અને where silence speaks louder than sound. જ્યાં મૌન પણ સંદેશ આપે છે.

**રપ વર્ષની યાત્રા એ તો માત્ર એક પડાવ છે, પણ આ યાત્રા અવિરત છે.** સાધનાની, શ્રદ્ધાની અને ભવિષ્યના નિર્માણમાં યાત્રા.

JCNC આજે છે કારણ કે થોડા લોકોએ 1975માં એક સ્વપ્ન જોયું હતું અને તે જીવંત બન્યું છે. શ્રમથી, વિશ્વાસથી અને સેવાની અડગ ભક્તિથી. આજે જ્યારે આપણે તેની રજતજયંતિ ઉજવી રહ્યા છીએ, ત્યારે હૃદય થી આભાર માનીએ છીએ, સર્વે દાતા, સંચાલકો, સેવકો અને ભક્તોનો જેમણે આ પવિત્ર મંદિરનું નિર્માણ કરવાનું સ્વપ્ન સાકાર કર્યું છે.

**આગળ પણ એ જ શ્રદ્ધા, એ જ સમર્પણ જળવાઈ રહે, અને JCNC ચિરંજીવી બને — એ અભિલાષા સાથે...**

**પ્રજ્ઞા દાદભાવાળા - નિમિત્ત માત્ર**



Dear JCNC Community,  
On this joyous milestone, JCGS extends heartfelt  
congratulations on 25 years of dedication to Jain principles,  
community and spiritual growth. May the temple continue to inspire  
peace and prosperity for generations to come.



Warm regards,

**Jain Center of Greater Sacramento (JCGS)**

## Twenty-Five Years – A Journey Together

*By Biren Shah, JCNC Past President and Editor of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir*



Jainism is an ancient religion, yet its values are ever so relevant in this modern world. The ultimate goal of the Jain religion is for a soul to achieve liberation from the cycle of birth and death. Jainism emphasizes that **Ratnatraya** (triple gems of Jainism) - the right vision or view (*Samyak Darshana*), right knowledge (*Samyak Gyan*) and right conduct (*Samyak Charitra*) - are the steppingstones for liberation of a soul. Thus, a simultaneous pursuit of right vision, right knowledge and right conduct is emphasized as the proper path to salvation. On a personal level, this trinity helps *sadharmik* realize its own intrinsic purity and produce harmony, contentment, and bliss with a progressive march of soul to a higher plane.

### **Vision - *Samyak Darshana***

In Silicon Valley California, home to successful tech enterprises, the **Ratnatraya** concept of *Samyak Darshana* can be seen as being utilized by corporations that use their vision, mission, and goals as a guide in formulating the processes and practicing them to attain success. Similarly, Jain Bhawan nestled in the midst of Silicon Valley has enabled Jains of the Bay Area to follow the concept of *Samyak Darshana* that is so pivotal to Jainism.

### **Emphasis on Knowledge - *Samyak Gyan***

Following the concept of Ratnatraya's second principle of right knowledge (*Samyak Gyan*), Jain Bhawan has become a center of learning and education. JCNC has emphasized knowledge and learning from many angles to meet the varied needs of its constituency, as well as playing a key role in practicing the principles of Jainism and living in harmony within the Milpitas and Northern California community.

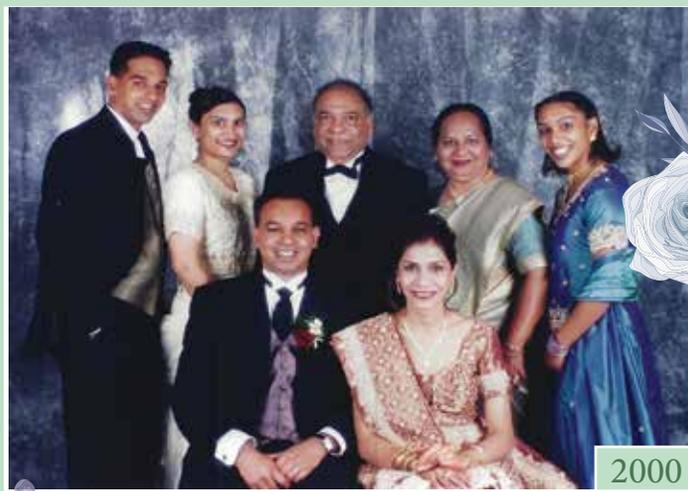
JCNC has been on a continuous path to impart knowledge and from the very start of Jain Milan in 1975; the founders of Jain Bhawan placed educating children as one of its main visions. Originally started with the object of imparting religious education to students at home on a small scale, the endeavor has progressed into a large-scale endeavor as students registered for various classes right here in Jain Bhawan.

Year after year, the student enrollment has been consistently climbing. Currently, we have 650+ students enrolled across various programs, including Jain Pathshala, Sutra Shala, Music, Language, SAT Prep, and JAB. In addition to regular classes, the Education Team organizes many enriching events throughout the year, such as the Reading Challenge, Graduation Day, Teacher training, Jiv Daya Pathshala trip, and Vegan Day initiatives - all promoting compassion towards animals and fostering the tradition of non-violence. To make learning fun and meaningful, we host a Day Camp focused on Jain education for both children and youth.

During the 2025 Mahavir Janma Kalyanak celebration, over three hundred Pathshala students participated in a cultural program displaying religious skits, singing and folk dances. We are deeply grateful to our volunteers, parents, and students for dedicating their energy, passion,

Our heartfelt congratulations to JCNC as we celebrate 50 years of dedicated Jain community services and the 25th anniversary of our beautiful Jain Bhavan in Milpitas.

What a remarkable achievement, marking its Golden and Silver Anniversaries! Over the past 25 years, our family has had the privilege of growing alongside our beloved Sangh. We are deeply honored to have contributed our time, spirit, and resources ("*Tan, Man, and Dhan*") to its inspiring journey. We eagerly anticipate supporting the Sangh's continued vibrancy and expansion for many more decades.



With immense pride and appreciation,  
*Harsha and Hasu Shah*  
*Puja, Hemal, Karina, and Rihaan Shah*  
*Sarika, Hinesh, Jayden, and Jaina Shah*  
*Heena, Ankit, Nola, and Niam Patel*

and time to instilling Jain values and culture in the next generation. JCNC Pathshala efforts are led by a dedicated team of 100+ volunteer teachers, co-teachers, and coordinators, who manage all aspects of Pathshala.

Bhagwan Mahavir aptly said, "**A truly educated person never graduates**", reminding us that learning is a lifelong journey.



If children and youth are busy at Pathshala, the adults keep up with their spiritual practice with Adult Swadhyaya in English. The Swadhyaya has been conducted for over 30 years, concurrently with Sunday Pathshala, to make the overall learning experience a "Family Event"; wherein, adults have an option to attend the Swadhyaya. Thus, Adult Swadhyaya has become an integral part of Pathshala program. The uniqueness of the Swadhyaya is that it is attended by people from all Jain traditions with various language backgrounds.

Keeping pace with the Adult Swadhyaya, there are various similar activities being held during weekdays, both in-person at Jain Bhawan, as well as virtually to suit both the time convenience as well as interests of participants.

As the mind is challenged by the above-mentioned educational programs, the exercise of the mind and body is not left behind at Jain Bhawan. To create harmony of mind and body, there is Preksha Meditation. Preksha Meditation is the combination of knowledge from our ancient religious books, modern science, and our experience. Preksha Meditation is the practice of purifying our emotions and our consciousness ("chitta") and realizing our own self. Preksha Meditation is a technique of mediation for attitudinal change, behavioral modification, and integrated development of personality.

Started in 1970, Preksha Meditation is the result of the untiring efforts of Ganadhipati Tulsi and Acharya Mahapragya. Acharya Mahapragya researched and experimented for twenty years to rediscover the process of meditation, which was practiced by Bhagwan Mahavir. Preksha Meditation is for everyone, irrespective of his or her race, religion, language, color, gender, and belief. Preksha Meditation has proved a panacea for transmutation of thoughts, development of right emotions, positive thoughts and increasing the efficiency of mind and body. At Jain Bhawan, Preksha Dhyana is conducted on Sundays and is attended by many people.

### **Converting Knowledge to Conduct - *Samyak Charitra***

While providing *Samyak Darshan*, i.e., vision of Jain Way of Life, and imparting Samyak Gyan - knowledge of Jainism; JCNC has provided many opportunities for the community to implement its learning into the application of developed knowledge, Samyak Charitra (right conduct). The various programs spearheaded by JCNC have touched living beings and people from all walks of life, locally and internationally.

**Earthquake Relief** - In January 2001, an earthquake of magnitude 6.9 on the Richter scale, hit the state of Gujarat in India. This was one of the two most deadly earthquakes to strike India in its recorded history. One month after the earthquake, official Government of India figures placed the death toll at 19,727 and the number of injured at 166,000. More than 600,000 people were left



Cruelty  
Free  
Life Style

अहिंसा परमो धर्म

1. Live and Let Live
2. Every one has a right to be Happy
3. Compassion is a main root of Jainism
4. I like no suffering, so do others
5. Friendship with all, enomisty with non

**Live & Let Live**

Compliments From  
Pravin & Lina Turakhia  
Family, Fremont, CA

પુષ્પ પાંખડી જ્યાં દુભાય,  
જિનવરની ત્યાં નહિ આજાય;  
સર્વ જીવનું ઈચ્છો સુખ  
મહાવીરની શિક્ષા મુખ્ય.  
શ્રીમદ્ રાજચંદ્ર

Why we turned to a Plant base -Vegan Life Style?

\* Quote: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." - Mahatma Gandhi

1. Ethical Considerations for Animals

\* Quote: "As soon as we consider an animal as a thing, a resource, or a commodity, we have opened the door to endless cruelty." - Peter Singer

2. Environmental Sustainability

\* Quote: "When you go vegan, it's not just your body that changes, but your entire relationship with the planet." - Moby

3. Numerous Health Benefits- reducing the risk of chronic diseases.  
"Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food." - Hippocrates

4. Global Food Security and Resource Efficiency

\* Quote: "Every piece of meat on your plate represents a monumental waste of land, water, and other resources." - John Robbins

5. Personal Growth and Compassion

\* Quote: "If you think vegans are extreme, then you have no idea what is happening in the meat, dairy, and egg industries." - Anonymous

homeless, 348,000 houses were destroyed, and an additional 844,000 houses were damaged. More than 20,000 cattle were reported killed.

With the generous support of its members, JCNC raised \$210,000 and supported (1) rebuilding of the village Kunaria in Kutch (2) building of a unique Jain Cooperative Housing Society (Sumatinath Nagar) for earthquake victims of Morbi (3) supported Veerayatan Project under the guidance of Acharya Chandanaji (4) building of a 11500 square feet Gaushala with food and water storage.

**Tsunami Relief** - In December 2004, a magnitude 9.15 earthquake, off the coast of Sumatra triggered an Indian Ocean tsunami that killed around 226,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and nine other Indian Ocean countries. JCNC rose to the occasion and raised over \$100,000 to lend a hand to the victims of this natural disaster. JCNC helped rebuild homes and schools in Tamil Nadu and a library in Sri Lanka - (1) construction of a library building at Subadhraramaya, in the town of Kamburugamuwa, Sri Lanka (2) reconstruction of two schools in Nagapattanam District, Tamil Nadu, India (3) reconstruction of ten homes in the town of Kamburugamuwa, Sri Lanka.

**Dignitaries at Jain Bhawan** - As a leading Jain center, Jain Bhawan is regularly visited by the leading religious scholars from India and famous personalities from North America, Europe, Australia, Africa, and India. JCNC regularly hosts elected city, county, and state officials. Most famous visitors include Ila Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, Ambassador N.P. Jain, Ambassador L.M. Singhvi, Leo McCarthy Lt. Governor of California, Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Ram Madhav National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party and a member of the National Executive of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

**Jiv Daya** - Abiding by the path of compassion for animals, with generous support of the community, JCNC has donated over \$1.28 million over the past 25 years towards Jiv Daya, through organizations in India and the United States that are directly involved in saving animal lives and welfare thereafter. Jains are firm believers of Ahimsa (non-violence) and practice vegetarianism; hence their practice of Jiv Daya indirectly helps in promoting the cause of Ahimsa and vegetarianism.

**Health Camps** - On the home front, JCNC has made a direct impact on the lives of the community with Health Camps arranged by volunteer doctors and nurses. The first Health Fair was organized in 2005, and there was a strong turnout, since then such health camps are frequently organized.

**Senior Activities** - JCNC believes that healthy relationships benefit people of all ages. But social interactions for seniors are especially important. Consistent socializing helps seniors stay spiritually, emotionally, and physically fit. Spending time with others reduces the potential for social isolation in the elderly. Senior Mixer is a popular program for JCNC seniors. Senior Mixer is held every month on the second Saturday. About 300 seniors engage in fun-filled and informative activities.

**Interfaith Conferences** - Anekantvaad is one of the most important and fundamental doctrines of Jainism. It refers to the principles of multiplicity of viewpoints, the notion that truth and reality are perceived differently from diverse points of view, and that no single point of view is the complete truth. The origins of Anekantvaad can be traced back to the teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir. Anekantvaad encourages its adherents to consider the views and beliefs of their rivals and opposing parties.

JCNC has outreach programs for interfaith activities. JCNC is a founding member of Silicon Valley Interreligious Council (SiVIC). JCNC regularly participates in and holds seminars and conferences to promote Jainism and educates people from other faiths on the history and values of Jainism and its



**California** की धन्य धरा पर आदिनाथ दादा के देरासर की **25** वीं वर्षघाँठ की बहुत बहुत बधाई एवं हमारे परिवार की तरफ़ से जैन सेंटर ऑफ़ नॉर्दर्न कैलिफोर्निया की भूरी भूरी अनुमोदना.

**- KAMALESH, JIGNA, RISHAB & NAMAN**  
(Sanghvi Dungarmal Chunilalji Family)

contributions to economic, cultural, scientific, and educational evolution in India and the world over the centuries. We regularly establish contacts with colleges and high schools and host students at Jain Bhawan.

**Ahimsa Meals** - Compassion is an integral part of Jain religion. In Silicon Valley homelessness is a severe problem and unfortunately there is a constant increase in the homeless population year after year, which exacerbates the miseries of the unhoused communities. JCNC is a longtime partner of Silicon Valley Interreligious Council (SiVIC). JCNC Ahimsa Meals Project feature providing Animal-Free (Vegan) Lunch to unhoused people in Silicon Valley. Every year JCNC volunteers cook nutritious meals in Jain Bhawan kitchen and on average five hundred freshly prepared meals are distributed through partner organizations of SiVIC.



**Chha Gau Bhaav Yatra** - A Spiritual Journey of Unity and Devotion - The Siddhachal Chha Gau Yatra on Fagan Sud Teras is among the most sacred pilgrimages of Shatrunjay Tirth, drawing thousands annually. This signature event is celebrated with deep reverence and communal effort. Volunteers across all age groups dedicate weeks to crafting stunning replicas of sacred sites from Shatrunjay Tirth. This not only honors our faith but also cultivates unity and spiritual joy among participants. A highlight each year is the Shree Aadinath Dada no Darbar, created with thoughtful themes that the community eagerly anticipates.

**Educating Law Enforcement Agencies** - Milpitas is often called the “Crossroads of Silicon Valley.” It is rich in diversity, and Asians constitute 70 percent of the total population. Located amid this diversity, JCNC uses this opportunity to conduct major dialogues with the local government authorities at all levels to ensure strong partnership with the city officials. In 2009 JCNC reached out to the law enforcement agencies (Milpitas and San Jose). The objective was to create awareness of various beliefs and cultural practices of the Jain tradition and practical life around them. In this context a ten to fifteen-minute video has been created with the help of Law Enforcement Agencies. This video is used to train police officers and other related staff members at distinct levels of seniority. By providing law enforcement a glimpse into Jain religion, familiarity grows, both of its traditions and practices, as well as their living atmosphere, resulting in an educated foundation for all security personnel serving Jain Communities.

**Annual Picnic** - JCNC picnic is an immensely popular summer outdoor program where the community comes together and enjoys games for all age groups, delicious food, and socializing.

**Technology Classes** - Being in Silicon Valley, JCNC occasionally organizes tech literacy camps wherein our tech savvy youths and adults conduct classes and provide practical training and tips on using computers and mobile devices to seniors and others who are interested in learning innovative technologies.

**Samovasaran** - In 2010, JCNC installed the magnificent Samovasaran designed by the US architect and the Sompuras in Ahmedabad, India. The project along with Samovasaran included removing two glass walls, moving the main door back to the current location, redoing the back ceiling and adding additional heating and air conditioning for the new area. We also installed four marble Chitrapats in the rotunda area at the same time. There was a 4-inch copper pipe coming from the ceiling to the floor. The center of the Samovasaran is around this pipe, hiding it completely.

For 25 years, JCNC has been our home of peace  
and Jain values. We're grateful to celebrate  
this milestone together.



*Warm Wishes*

*Keeva, Kyra, Shreya & Deepak Shah*



**Kalash Ceremony** - In October 2010 JCNC received three Golden Kalash from India for the Shikhar. A Kalash installation ceremony was held on 23 October 2010. A tall mechanical bucket truck was brought in for installing the Kalash to the top of the Shikhar.



**Badi Dikshā** - In April 2012 JCNC hosted Diksha ceremony when Sadhvi Sanghamitraji (née Kumari Mangalam of North Carolina, USA) was given Dikshā (initiation of monkhood) by Acharya Shri Chandanaji, Veerayatan. Three days long Badi Dikshā ceremony of Sadhvi Sanghamitraji was held during 6 to 8 April 2012. This was a historic event for the entire Jain Community of the USA. This was the first Dikshā ceremony to take place in North America.



**Solar Panels** - The use of solar energy is all about preserving our environment and promoting ecology. Jainism is fundamentally a religion of ecology and has turned ecology into a religion. Jainism is about safeguarding nature and our roots by acting responsibly. In 2015 JCNC installed 54KW DC/48 KW AC Solar Systems along with Solar Panels covering carports.

# Congratulations to JCNC for its *25th Anniversary*

**Anekant Community Center and Aparigrah Foundation have conducted countless health fairs and national & international humanitarian missions to promote health and well-being worldwide. Please reach out if you're interested in volunteering.**

16220 Ridgeview Lane, La Mirada, CA 90638

[Dr. Nitin Shah: nitinshahmd@gmail.com](mailto:nitinshahmd@gmail.com)

[Mr. Pramod Shah: pshah24@gmail.com](mailto:pshah24@gmail.com)

[anekantcc.org](http://anekantcc.org) | [aparigrah.com](http://aparigrah.com)



On 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015 JCNC hosted the inauguration of the system including a ribbon-cutting ceremony which was conducted by the then Mayor of Milpitas Jose Esteves. This event was attended by about 450 people at JCNC, including community members, Milpitas City council members, representatives from Vendor partners and other religious organizations in Silicon Valley.

Jain Bhawan is the first green building amongst all JAINA Centers in North America.

**JCNC Cricket League** - A community game changer - launched in January 2016, the JCNC Cricket League (JCL) has evolved into one of the most anticipated sporting and social events for the Jain community in the Bay Area. JCL is a shining example of community spirit in action.

The vision behind JCL has always been simple yet profoundly impactful: to build a united Jain community, across age, gender, and tradition through the shared love of cricket. The unique blend of spiritual unity and sporting spirit resonated instantly, and JCL rapidly evolved into a flagship annual event for JCNC.

But behind the scenes, JCL is nothing short of a massive undertaking. It stands as a testament to the power of volunteerism, sustained by countless hours of dedication from selfless community members of the JCL Working Committee who work tirelessly, often late into the night, to deliver an experience that is joyful, inclusive, and memorable for every participant and spectator.

JCL YouTube channel ([youtube.com/@jcl7151](https://youtube.com/@jcl7151)), has curated highlights of games along with the final scoreboards. JCL expanded its digital presence by introducing an Instagram channel ([instagram.com/jcnc\\_cricket\\_league](https://instagram.com/jcnc_cricket_league)) and a Facebook page to better connect with fans on social media.

Resolute team volunteers contribute select game snippets, which were assembled into engaging highlight reels for the community to enjoy. Some videos were captured by high-resolution drone footage, adding a dynamic perspective to the action.

JCL also introduced tournaments and team sponsorships, providing local Jain businesses an opportunity to promote their brands to the community and a wider audience through our growing social media presence. Sponsors gained visibility via platforms like YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook, as well as through on-field banners and team uniforms.



Since the 2024 season, JCL matches are telecast live with real-time commentary, allowing families to follow the action from home. Fans could track match updates, monitor team performance, and even start strategizing for upcoming receive push notifications via outbound connections for real-time updates games.

*Congratulations & Best Wishes*  
JCNC 25th Anniversary



Jashvant & Aruna Shah



Keyur, Shilpa, Karina, Sahil, Shreya



Ashish, Monica, Devin, Diya

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PVSA volunteers have played a vital role, supporting setup and breakdown, capturing moments through photography, and producing video content. In 2024, even 10 years younger enthusiasts stepped up to try their hand at live commentary, while PVSA youth took charge of setting up and managing the live broadcast system, turning JCL into a learning ground for future leaders and creators. During the 2024 JCL season 300+ players played various games.

**The President's Volunteer Service Award for Youth** - in 2017, JCNC has partnered with "Corporation for National Community to Service" to award "The Presidents Volunteer Service Awards (PVSA)" for deserving young volunteers aged 13 to 19 years. The program is designed to prepare our next generation leaders in such a way that they will inspire them to participate in leading volunteer activities at JCNC. In return, they will be awarded with volunteer service credits and the PVSA certificate signed by the President of United States. Objectives of the PVSA program are: Provide a platform for our youth to plan and execute voluntary service; Encourage youth to participate in various community services; Promote Jain way of leading a selfless life by giving back to the community; Ultimate honor of presidential recognition; Special service commitment certificate and a medallion; Youth may use this recognition on their college application. In this souvenir, please see the PVSA page for positive changes and impacts our youths are making.

**Covid-19 Vaccination Drive** - in December 2019 COVID-19 was caused by an outbreak of coronavirus-2 at a laboratory in Wuhan, China. Soon after, it spread to other areas of Asia, and then worldwide in early 2020. The World Health Organization declared a public health emergency of international concern in January 2020 and a pandemic in March 2020.

COVID-19 vaccines were developed rapidly and deployed to the public beginning in December 2020. The pandemic caused severe social and economic disruption around the world, including the largest global recession since the great depression. In the true spirit of community services, JCNC rose to the occasion and organized two Covid-19 vaccination drives at the Jain Bhawan wherein Moderna vaccines were administered.



To mitigate financial hardship caused by Covid-19 and to support vaccination and other healthcare related ailments, JCNC raised \$105,000 to purchase oxygen concentrators for hospitals and provided groceries to the needy Jain families in India which was distributed thru partner organizations in India.

**Professor Padmanabh Jaini, PhD** - Professor Padmanabh Jaini, PhD, was a doyen of the Jain community in the Bay Area. In 1975, he welcomed and hosted **Acharya Sushil Muniji**, popularly known as Guruji, at his residence in Berkeley, California. With Guruji's blessings, Professor Jaini and other prominent Jain residents founded **Jain Milan**, which later became **JCNC** in 1981.

Professor Jaini's best-known work is *The Jaina Path of Purification* (1979). Some of his major writings have been published under titles such as *Collected Papers on Jaina Studies* (2000), *Collected Papers on Buddhist Studies* (2001), *Gender and Salvation: Jaina Debates on the Spiritual Liberation of Women* (1991), and *Christianity and Jainism: An Interfaith Dialogue*, co-authored with **Sir William Mark Tully**, Bureau Chief of BBC, New Delhi.

# Heartiest Congratulations

to

## Jain Center of Northern California

on 25 years of the multi-tradition Jain Temple, serving a vibrant and growing Jain community - providing both a sacred space for practicing Jain Dharma and a platform for nurturing spiritual growth across all generations!



॥ “सम्यग्दर्शन-ज्ञान-चारित्राणि मोक्षमार्गः” ॥  
Samyag-darśana-jñāna-cāritraṇi mokṣa-mārgaḥ  
– Tattvārtha Sūtra 1.1

“Right Faith, Right Knowledge, and Right Conduct are the path to Liberation!”

- Ritesh, Rupal, Siddh & Shlok Patani (Fremont, CA)  
- Late Smt. Kokilaben Hasmukhbhai Patani Parivaar (Mumbai)

*His notable Pali-text publications include:*

- *Subodhalankara: Porana-Tika (Mahasami-Tika)*
- *Apocryphal Birth-Stories (Pannasa-Jataka)*
- *Lokaneyyapakarana*
- *Abhidharma Buddhism to 150 A.D. (published under the Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies series)*

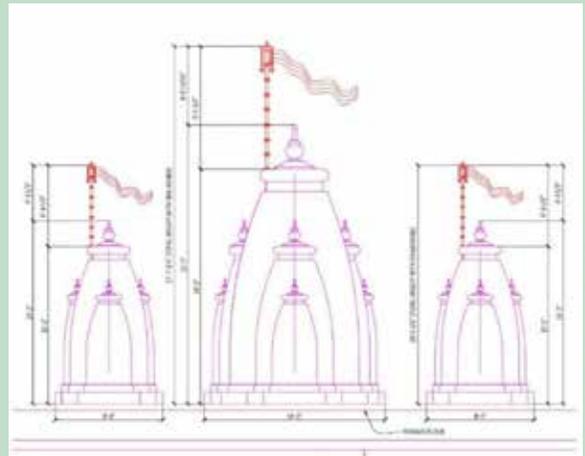
His autobiography, *Yogayoga: Memoirs of Professor Dr. Padmanabh S. Jaini*, was translated into Marathi by Amit Johrapurkar. His life and work are also featured in the Marathi biographical collection *Charitra Tyanche Paha Jara* (चरित्र त्यांचे पहा जरा)" in Marathi.

Professor Padmanabh Jaini passed away on May 25, 2021. On October 23, 2021, JCNC, together with JAINA, organized a virtual event titled *Celebration of Late Professor Padmanabh Jaini's Contribution to Jain Religion*. This widely appreciated program featured distinguished speakers and scholars of Jain studies from leading universities in the USA, UK, France, Sweden, and India.



**JCNC is proud of Professor Padmanabh Jaini, PhD as one of its founders.**

**Dhwaja Dand** - The Board of Directors formed a special Dhwaja Dand Committee. The project consisted of three traditional Dhwaja Dand over three main Shikhar. In September 2024, the Special Dhwaja Dand Committee, BOD, and EC performed the grand Dhwaja Dand Abhishek ceremony. In October 2024, the JCNC Community wholeheartedly participated in the grand procession and grand Dhwaja Dand Pratishtha Mahotsav. Now, we have a complete Shikharbandhi Derasar with traditional Dhwaja Dand crown. Dhwaja can be hoisted from ground level which is safe and allows participation by many more devotees.



**Temple Hours and Puja Timings** - for the convenience of devotees and visitors since March 2022 the temple hours are as under:

# *Congratulations Jene*



We appreciate the unwavering dedication of everyone  
involved in JCNC.

**Happy 25th Anniversary!**



Shreya, Sonia, Yana, Ritu and Yogesh Bapna



Temple Hours	Abhishek & Dev Guru Shastra Puja	Prakshal & Puja	Ang Puja	Aarti & Mangal Divo
Darshan 7 am to 9 pm	Mon – Fri 7:05 am  Sat – Sun & Holidays 8:05 am	Mulnayak <b>Pakshal Puja:</b> 7:15 am to 7:30 am Mahaveer Swami Abhishek & Puja: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ M-F: 7:30 am to 9:30 am</li> <li>○ Sat-Sun: 8:00 am to 10:00 am</li> </ul> Puja Open every day up to 4pm	Mulnayak <b>Ang Puja:</b> 7:50 am onwards* All Bhagwan ready for Ang Puja: 9:15 am onwards *Actual time may be earlier.	<b>Everyday</b> 7:45 pm Sharp

### In-house cooking during 2024 Paryushan and Das-Lakshan –

The year 2024 marked a monumental achievement at JCNC, as our vibrant community came together to prepare in-house and serve over 20,000 meals during Paryushan and Das Lakshan Parva.



From early morning preparations to joyful meal service, every moment was filled with devotion, teamwork, and love. The kitchen echoed with laughter, friendships were deepened, and every guest was welcomed with warm smiles and unlimited refills. This effort not only strengthened our bonds but also saved the Sangh ~\$165,000 in 2024, a saving that will benefit us for years to come.

### Celebration of Knowledge, Language, and Cultural Pride

**Exhibition Day** is a showcase of student-led projects rooted in Jain teachings. Modeled after a science fair, the event featured engaging and deeply researched presentations reflecting spiritual insights. Guided by enthusiastic teachers, students demonstrated not only academic depth but a meaningful connection to Jain philosophy.

**Bhasha Day** - aligned with India's Republic Day, on January 26, 2025, we celebrated Bhasha Day to honor the richness of Indian languages. Students recited heartfelt poems and performed dramatic skits in Hindi and Gujarati, displaying their linguistic abilities and reinforcing the importance of preserving our heritage.

### Major Technology Initiatives

**Expense Management and POS Payment** - in celebrations of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, JCNC introduced eBhandar, a modern donation platform tailored to today's tech-savvy community. With point-of-sale (POS) devices, the community can make secure, real-time contributions using debit or credit cards. Whether at a pooja, temple visit, or spontaneous moment of generosity - giving is now quick and receipt-based. This innovation brings convenience to devotees and operational ease - ushering in a future that stays rooted in our timeless Jain values.

The JCNC **CRM Project** is a transformative initiative to streamline and modernize how we connect with our community. It addresses previous challenges such as fragmented data, manual operations, and inconsistent reporting.

# Best Wishes

TO JCNC AND ENTIRE SANGH



KALPESH, PREETI, ANVI & ANAY BAFNA



**Membership Management** - the new member portal allows users to register/login via email and access code; view and manage membership status, renewals, and upgrades; update household and contact information; make secure payments online (via Stripe) or offline.

**Event Management** - designed to support all major JCNC events, this system enables event creation, scheduling, and RSVP tracking; QR code check-in with real-time attendance updates; a mobile-friendly member experience.

**Live Streaming** - to provide a reliable, high-quality experience, we are upgrading our live streaming infrastructure with the goals of providing enhanced Audio & Video Quality: delivering crisp, immersive viewing; improved Reliability: Minimizing disruptions for uninterrupted access; multiple camera angles: offering dynamic perspectives for a richer experience. This vital investment ensures the longevity and excellence of our digital outreach, keeping our Sangh connected and inclusive for years to come.

**Women's Mixer – Empowering Women, Strengthening Community** - in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year JCNC launched Women's Mixer designed to foster connection, empowerment, and enrichment among the women of our community. Women's Mixer strives to create a supportive platform for women who follow the Jain path of Ahimsa; promote personal growth, social well-being, and spiritual advancement; value and encourage equal participation in a safe and respectful environment; foster peace and harmony at family, community, national, and international levels through nonviolence and collaborate with like-minded women's groups to promote shared values of peace. All women in the community are welcome to come together, learn and support each other.

**Kashaay Jay Tapp - A Tapp to conquer over all the four Kashaay** - our inner passions and desires - are what often drive our daily actions. For the first time in 2025 the Kashaay Jay Tapp was organized - a meaningful spiritual practice focused on conquering these inner urges. This special 16-day Tapp follows a specific sequence repeated four times: Ekasana (one meal a day); Nivi; Aaymbil (a single, bland meal without spices, sweets, or oils); Upvaas (complete fast). More than 70 Tapasvis completed this full 16-day journey of self-discipline and reflection.

**Land Acquisition** - in 2025 with Aadinath Dada's Ashirwad, JCNC successfully completed the purchase of land admeasuring 29000 sq. ft. located at 526 South Main Street, Milpitas. This is a significant milestone that brings us one step closer to fulfilling our community's long-standing needs and laying the foundation for the next 25 years of growth and service. We envision this space as a vital hub for our community, supporting our collective vision for the future.

### **In conclusion**

No one can believe that it is already twenty-five years - WOW! In the last twenty-five years the level of energy, sense of commitment, and dedication shown and required to organize these many events on an ongoing basis has brought our community together. Also, community members have generously donated on all occasions. Most importantly our benefactors, our board members, our executive leaders, our numerous volunteers, and community members have demonstrated exceptional results via inspiring, building, facilitating, and strengthening our commitments.

**All of us are ready for the next 25 years!!! Khub Khub Anumodana to everyone!**

*\*Adapted and updated from the article originally published in the JCNC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir. Acknowledge contributions of many volunteers for researching and collecting facts for the article.*



*As we reflect on 25 years of blessings, devotion, and cherished memories,  
Our family — Mitin Shah & Shrilekha Shah, along with Sharlik, Ayush,  
Kavita, Sneja, Shlok, and little Aashvi*

*feels truly humbled and honored to be part of this spiritual journey with our  
beloved Jain temple. The temple has been more than just a place of worship; it  
has been a foundation of our values, a sanctuary of peace, and a source of  
inspiration for our family through every step of life. It has brought us closer not  
only to our faith but also to each other and the community we proudly call our  
extended family. We offer our sincere gratitude to the trustees, volunteers, and  
every devotee whose dedication continues to keep the spirit of Jain Dharma  
alive. May the blessings of our Tirthankars guide us all in living a life filled  
with compassion, truth, and spiritual strength.*

*Jai Jinendra,  
Mitin & Shrilekha Shah*

# Journey Through Devotion: Celebrating Jain Religious Practices at JCNC

*Contributors - Parag Shah, Deven Shah, Taresh Parekh,  
Jayashree Shah, Mittal Kothari, Nayan Jain*

*|| Shree Mahaveeray Namah || Shree Adinathay Namah || Shree Parshwanathay Namah ||*

## **Introduction: A Temple Rooted in Dharma**

The Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) in Milpitas is a spiritual home for the Bay Area Jain community. Over the years, it has grown into a vibrant center for devotion, learning, and service. From festivals and tapasya to daily pujas and bhakti, JCNC stays rooted in the core values of ahimsa, aparigraha, and samyak darshan. This article shares an overview of the many religious activities that bring our Sangh together in faith and unity.



## **Celebrating Chha Gau Yatra at JCNC: Recreating the Bhaav of Shatrunjay Mahatirth**

*Shri Siddhachal Giri Namo Namah !*

*Vimlachal Giri Namo Namah !*

*Shetrunjay Giri Namo Namah !*

*Vandan Ho Giriraj Ne !*

Fagun Sud Teras is a sacred day when countless Jain pilgrims in India undertake the Chha Gau Yatra of Shree Shatrunjay Mahatirth. It marks the moment when Shaambh and Pradyumna, sons of Shri Krishna, along with 85 million Sadhus, attained Kevalgyaan and Moksha at Bhadava Dungar. This day represents the ultimate spiritual victory in Jain tradition.

Inspired by this, JCNC began its own Chha Gau Bhaav Yatra in 2006. Volunteers recreated beautiful replicas of Shatrunjay Mahatirth, allowing the Sangh to experience the yatra with bhaav and devotion. Since then, it has become a cherished annual event. The Samkit group plays a key role in organizing the yatra, with over 100 volunteers helping build detailed replicas of Mount Shatrunjay and Bhandva Dungar. Their efforts enhance the spiritual atmosphere and ensure a smooth experience.

In 2021, during the pandemic, JCNC adapted by having families create 15 deris at home, which the Sangh visited for darshan. Since 2023, participants have returned to building deris at JCNC with help from family and volunteers, continuing the tradition of seva and sangh bhakti.

A highlight of the event is the grand Dada no Darbar, a beautiful display filled with devotion. Another much-loved tradition, added in 2016, is the food paals, modeled after the original yatra in Palitana, adding joy and energy to the event. Over the years, the format of the yatra has evolved to enrich the experience. It has also inspired other Jain centers across the U.S. to start their own versions, spreading bhakti, unity, and cultural pride.

# Tai Tinendra

**Celebration along with 25 years of JCNC:**  
Growing stronger by working together  
and inspiring the next generation with Jain  
Dharma, Devotion, and Forgiveness.



**Anil, Sharmila, Rajvi, Ritvi & Ranka Family**



2025 Dada no darbar



2024 Dada no darbar

**Navpad Ayambil Oli: A Nine-Day Journey of Faith and Inner Transformation**  
***Om Rhim Shree Vimleshwar - Chakeshwari Pujitay Shree Siddhachakray Namah:!!***

Navpad Oli, observed twice a year during the holy months of Aaso and Chaitra, is a deeply meaningful time in Jain dharma. Known as Shaswat Oli, it honors the tradition where devas and devis visit Nandishwar Dwip to offer Jinbhakti to the 24 Tirthankars. At JCNC, this sacred period is celebrated with great devotion and participation by shravaks, shravikas, and children, who engage in nine days of Navpad aaradhana.

The tradition of Ayambil Oli at JCNC began in the early 2000s with just a few tapasvis. Over the years, it has grown into one of JCNC’s most well-attended religious events. Volunteers play a vital role by managing food preparation and logistics, helping maintain the tradition with care and dedication. During the pandemic, JCNC continued the observance by providing Ayambil “To Go” boxes, allowing tapasvis to fast safely from home. This effort showed the Sangh’s commitment to spiritual continuity and community support. Today, over 225 people participate daily, with weekend attendance often crossing 300, reflecting its growing importance. JCNC also offers “To Go” boxes during weekdays to allow members to continue their ayambil tapasya. The event’s success is supported by volunteers who give their tan (effort), man (blessings), and dhan (resources). To deepen understanding, JCNC also invites Jain scholars from India to share pravachans, often in collaboration with other Jain centers across the U.S., enriching the Sangh’s learning and bhakti.



**JCNC Anniversary – Honoring Our Temple, Our Traditions, and Our Unity**

Every year, as the first weekend of August nears, JCNC comes alive with joy and devotion. This special weekend marks the anniversary of our Jain Bhawan—a time for the Sangh to gather in

On the occasion of JCNC's 25th anniversary, we extend heartfelt wishes to our 25<sup>th</sup> Tirthankar - JCNC Sangh - for spiritual growth and harmony.



JCNC is more than a place — it is our spiritual home, where friendships grow, hearts connect, and Jain values shine through service, compassion, and unity.

Let us be guided by "परस्परौपग्रहञ्चवानाम"  
– Living beings exist to support and uplift one another.  
May this belief become a way of life: uplifting each other,  
serving with compassion, and walking toward a more  
peaceful world.

*With heartfelt gratitude*

Atul bhai, Dinaben, Rahul, Parita, Kanak & Kaira Parekh

celebration of dharma, unity, and spiritual reflection.

The three-day celebration includes a variety of uplifting events: Digambar Pooja and Vidhan, Shwetambar Poojan, 18 Abhishek, Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra bhakti, cultural programs, 17 Bhedi Pooja, and the grand Dhawaja Ceremony. One of the most cherished moments is the Dhawaja Ceremony, where members from all five Jain traditions come together to raise the sacred flag. In 2022, JCNC moved the ceremony downstairs to allow more members to participate, creating a beautiful and inclusive experience. Another highlight is the 18 Abhishek, where devotees bring Bhagwanji pratima from home. With over 70 pratimajis worshipped side by side, the temple transforms into a tirth, offering powerful darshan and bhakti for all.

Throughout the weekend, four Swamivatsalya meals are lovingly prepared and served by volunteers. These meals, shared with warmth and care, bring the Sangh together in the true spirit of seva and samata.

### **Paryushan Mahaparva at JCNC: The Jewel of Jain Celebrations**



*Khamemi Savve Jiva (I forgive all living beings)*  
*Savve Jiva Khamantu Me (May all beings forgive me)*  
*Mitti Me Savva Bhooesu (I am friendly with all souls)*  
*Veram Majjham Na Kenai (I have no animosity toward anyone)*

Paryushan Mahaparva is one of the most sacred festivals in Jain dharma, dedicated to self-purification, forgiveness, and spiritual upliftment. At JCNC, it is celebrated each year with deep devotion by followers of all Jain traditions, including Shwetambar, Terapanth, Sthanakwasi, and Shrimad Rajchandra.

Before the festival begins, volunteers clean and decorate the derasar, creating a peaceful and welcoming space. Spiritual leaders and scholars from different traditions are invited to guide the community through daily poojas, pravachans, pratikramans, and bhakti bhavana. From the fourth day, Kalpa Sutra Vanchan is held, and on Samvatsari, the Barsa Sutra is recited.

JCNC hosts multiple lectures and over seven daily pratikramans to serve the entire community. On Samvatsari, more than 2,500 members participate, with additional space arranged to accommodate the large gathering. A highlight is the Mahavir Janma Vanchan and Sapna Ceremony, which fills quickly due to high interest and draws over 2,300 participants.

Tapasya is at the heart of Paryushan. In 2024, over 125 Atthai Taps were completed. Many also performed Ekasana, 9 Upvas, 11 Upvas, and advanced fasts like Siddhi Tap and Maaskhaman. Children actively participate in age-appropriate fasts, reflecting a strong commitment to Jain values and inspiring others.

The spiritual atmosphere is enriched by the daily creation of aangi for the Bhagwan's pratima—crafted with devotion by a dedicated team. To engage youth, JCNC provides a “Do and Don't” worksheet that

# *Celebrating* 25 years of JCNC



A place that has nurtured our souls,  
strengthened our values,  
and brought our community together.  
We are grateful for the memories,  
teachings, and friendships that have enriched our lives.

Wishing JCNC continued growth and success.

## *Jai Jinendra!*

Dilip Bhandari, Hema Bhandari  
Virat Bhandari

encourages children to follow Jain values during the festival. Those who complete it are recognized during the Tapasvi Bahuman ceremony.

At the conclusion of Paryushan and Das Lakshana, JCNC holds Tapasvi Bahuman, honoring all who observed tapasya. This cherished event brings the Sangh together in anumodana, celebrating the efforts, discipline, and faith of every tapasvi.

*Paryushan at JCNC is more than a festival—it is a powerful time of sadhana, community unity, and deep spiritual connection for all.*



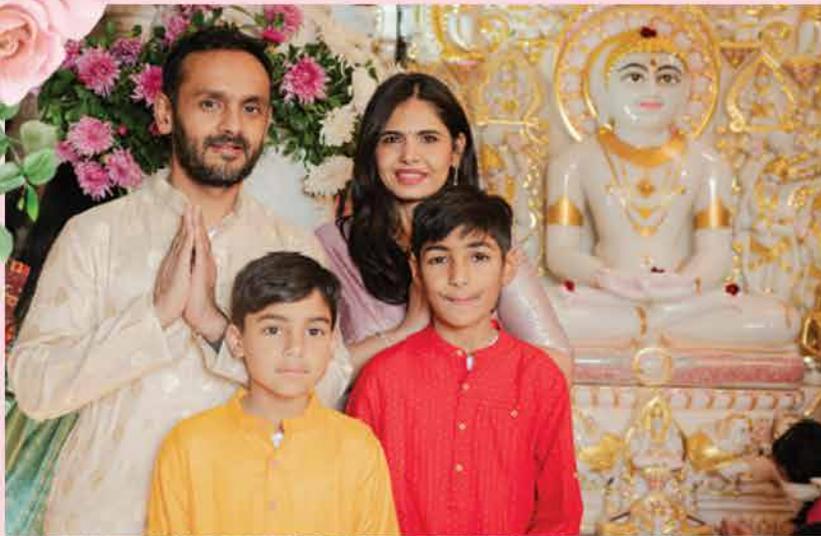
### **Swamivatsalya Excellence: A New Era of Seva Through In-House Cooking**

In 2024, JCNC made a meaningful change by switching to in-house cooking for Paryushan and Das Lakshana. This shift from outsourced meals to a fully volunteer-led kitchen reflected a strong commitment to seva, discipline, and Jain values. Months of careful planning went into the effort. Volunteers managed everything—from buying and storing ingredients to cooking, serving, and cleaning—while strictly following Jain dietary principles of ahimsa and purity. Each meal was prepared with love and served with humility. The kitchen team was well-organized, with every meal assigned a lead, co-leads, and backups to ensure smooth operations. Planning began 3 to 4 months in advance, helping avoid stress and allowing the team to meet the needs of thousands of festival attendees. This initiative not only improved JCNC’s self-reliance, but also strengthened community bonding. Sangh members came together with tan (effort), man (intent), and dhan (resources)—offering a beautiful example of organized seva.

### **Das Lakshana and Other Digambar Observances**

Das Lakshana Parva, celebrated during the bright half of Bhadrapada month, is a 10-day festival of soul purification in the Digambar Jain tradition. Each day focuses on one of the ten supreme virtues: forgiveness, humility, honesty, contentment, truth, self-restraint, austerity, renunciation, non-possessiveness, and celibacy. Reflecting on these virtues helps reduce kashay (passions) and brings the soul closer to liberation.

At JCNC, Das Lakshana is celebrated with devotion and joy. Each day includes poojas, pravachans, bhakti bhavana, and reflection on the virtue of the day. The Sangh supports one another through pratikraman, swadhyay, and tapasyas, including ekasana, upvas, and more advanced fasts. These practices strengthen both individual resolve and community unity. In addition, JCNC celebrates Ashtanika Parva three times a year—in Phalgun, Ashadha, and Kartika. These eight-day observances



*Silver is just the beginning. May we move ahead with  
Golden Hearts and timeless faith. May the  
memories of this celebration stay with us as a guiding  
light throughout our lives!*

***Bhavik, Minal, Arhan, Rihaan Shah  
& Family***

**Neminath Bhagwan Pratishtha Ceremony, Ahmedabad, 2024**

include intense pooja, kriya, and the recitation of sacred texts. These parvas align with cosmic energies and are believed to bring great spiritual benefit when performed with bhaav. JCNC also honors two major Kalyanak days of Shri Mahavir Bhagwan: his Janma (birth) on Chaitra Shukla Trayodashi, and his Moksha on Kartik Amavasya. These days are marked with pooja, abhishek, bhakti, and spiritual storytelling, inspiring the Sangh to live with compassion, purity, and discipline. These Digambar traditions are more than annual events—they are spiritual anchors that guide the community on the path of liberation.

### **Shrimad Rajchandra Programs**

JCNC has been blessed to celebrate and honor the teachings of Param Krupalu Dev Shrimad Rajchandra through a variety of spiritually enriching programs throughout the year. Each year, Shrimad Rajchandra Janmotsav is celebrated with devotion and reverence. The program typically includes Nityakram, Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra Puja, Janmotsav Pado, and Swadhyay sessions, allowing participants to connect with Shrimad's message of inner transformation. In addition, JCNC performs the Shrimad-Bhagwan Mahavir Panch Kalyanak Poojan and during Paryushan, Swadhyay sessions focus on Shrimad's teachings.

JCNC also observes several Dehotsarg Din commemorations—for Shrimad Rajchandra, Prabhushriji (Laghuraj Swami), and Brahmachariji. These programs typically include Nityakram, Atmasiddhi Bhakti, Virah Pado, Vanchan, and conclude with Sadharmik Vatsalya. The Moti Alochana on Chomasi Chaudas is another program that emphasizes introspection and repentance, guided by Shrimad's principles and also celebrate Shri Atmasiddhi Shashtra Rachana Din, and on the same day Prabhushri ji's Janmotsav by doing namaskar at each Atmasiddhi gatha beside nityakram.

### **Kashay Jay Tap: Conquering Internal Adversaries**

Kashay Jay Tap is a powerful spiritual practice observed at JCNC to overcome the four inner enemies of the soul: Krodh (anger), Maan (ego), Maya (deceit), and Lobh (greed). These kashays are considered major obstacles in Jain dharma, as they bind the soul and prevent spiritual progress. This 16-day tap is designed to weaken these passions through fasting, kriya, reflection, and community support.

The tap is divided into four cycles, each lasting four days and focused on one kashay:

- Day 1 – Ekasana: one simple meal, eaten once.
- Day 2 – Nivi: one restricted meal
- Day 3 – Ayambil: one austere meal without any of the veggies, fruits, spices, oil, salt, sugar or dairy.
- Day 4 – Upvas: full fast with boiled water only during the day time. (if health permits).

Held at JCNC in 2022, the tap began with blessings from Acharya Bhagwant Shri RatnaSunder Maharaj Saheb and guidance from Adhyapak Jayeshbhai Khona. That year, 56 tapasvis took part, many for the first time, and received strong support from the Sangh through daily pooja, pratikraman, kriya, and pravachans by Shri Champakbhai Mehta, who helped explain the meaning and solutions for each kashay.

What made this tap truly special was the collective spirit. Tapasvis inspired one another, and the Sangh helped with logistics and Ayambil meals, allowing everyone to stay focused on their sadhana.

Heartfelt congratulations  
on the 25th anniversary  
of JCNC!

*"May the timeless principles of Ahimsa,  
Compassion, and Spiritual Growth continue  
to illuminate our path and strengthen our  
Sangh for generations to come.*

*Wishing continued unity, progress, and  
inspiration as we journey forward together."*

*Michhami Dukkadam !*



**Compliments from:**  
Aparna & Rasesh Shah,  
Indiraben Himatlal Shah,  
Kavya & Anay

### **Akshay Nidhi and Samovasaran Tap: JCNC's 16-Day Path of Discipline and Devotion**

In 2023 and 2024, JCNC introduced a 16-day daily Ekasana program during Akshay Nidhi Tap and Samovasaran Tap, aligned with the sacred period from Shravan Vad Chauth to Bhadarva Sud Chauth (Samvatsari). Tapasvis are encouraged to continue this commitment for four consecutive years for full spiritual benefit.

In the Akshay Nidhi Tap, participants do Ekasana for 15 days followed by Upvas on the last day. Samovasaran Tap includes one 4-day cycle of Ekasana, Nivi, Ayambil, and Upvas, or maintaining Ekasana and a final Upvas. Tapasvis observe brahmacharya (celibacy) and perform Tirthankar Pooja, Chaitya Vandan, Dev Vandan, Gyan Pooja, Guru Vandan, pratikraman, and attend pravachans. Each tap follows a defined structure with specific kriyas.

JCNC's program is especially inspiring due to diverse participation across age groups. The shared discipline and devotion have created a strong sense of community bonding and spiritual focus.

### **Observing Posh Dashmi Tap at JCNC: Honoring Shri Parshwanath Bhagwan**

*Shree Parshwanath Parmeshthi Ne Namah !*

*Shree Parshwanath Arhate Namah !*

*Shree Parshwanathay Namah !*

At JCNC, the Posh Dashmi Tap is observed with deep devotion to commemorate the Janma Kalyanak of Shri Parshwanath Bhagwan on Posh Vad Dasham and his Diksha Kalyanak on Posh Vad Agiyaras.

This three-day tap begins on Posh Vad Naum. Tapasvis observe either Attham (three days of Upvas) or Ekasana. JCNC organizes Samuhik Ekasana daily, with a different meal format each day:

- Day 1: Ekasana with jaggery water and Tham Chauvihar.
- Day 2: Ekasana with kheer and Tham Chauvihar.
- Day 3: Full Ekasana meal.

Along with fasting, participants engage in daily pooja, kriya, jaap, pradakshina, and pratikraman. JCNC also holds special poojas and Bhakti Bhavana to celebrate these Kalyanak days. Tapasvis are encouraged to continue Ekasana on every Vad Dasham as an ongoing practice. It is believed that maintaining this discipline for 10 years and 10 months can lead toward the path of Samadhi. Each year, many in the Sangh take part in Posh Dashmi Tap, honoring the life of Shri Parshwanath Bhagwan.



### **Chaumasi Chaudas – A Day of Reflection and Forgiveness**

Chaumasi Chaudas is observed every four months as a day of self-reflection, repentance, and forgiveness. Jains avoid all vegetables and fruits and engage in Tap, Dev Vandan, meditation, and Pratikraman to reflect on past actions and seek inner purification. At JCNC, the Sangh observes this day with deep reverence and unity. The community comes together for Samuhik Ekasana, followed by Chaumasi Dev Vandan and Pratikraman.

### **Maun Aagiyaras – Embracing Silence and Introspection**

Maun Aagiyaras, observed on Magshar Sud 11, is a day dedicated to Maun (silence) and spiritual

# Congratulations Jenc!

ON  
25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



.....  
We are extremely grateful  
to be part of this  
wonderful community.  
.....

*Aarna, Ishita & Kunal Bavishi,  
Shirish & Kalpana Bavishi  
Daxa Shah & Late Ashok Shah.*

reflection. We celebrate 150 Kalyanaks of past, present and future Tirthankars on this one day. By staying silent, individuals focus inward, reducing negative karma and cultivating peace, self-control, and mindfulness. At JCNC, this day is marked with Samuhik Ekasana, where devotees come together with tan (effort), man (focus), and dhan (generosity). The quiet atmosphere and shared intention create a deep sense of unity and spiritual energy.

**Ayambil on Karuna Day & Thanksgiving Day: Honoring Ahimsa Through Compassionate Living**  
*Namo Jinanam Jiya Bhayanam (Salutations to the Jinas who protect all living beings)*

Ahimsa (non-violence) is a core Jain principle, and at JCNC, it is honored through the observance of Karuna Day—a time to reflect on Jiv Daya (compassion for all life). Karuna Day is observed during times when harm to animals is more common, such as Bakri Eid and Thanksgiving. On these days, JCNC holds Samuhik Ayambil, where participants eat simple meal, without any veggies, fruits, dairy spices or sugar to express solidarity with voiceless beings and dedicate their fast to universal compassion. A key part of this effort is the Jiv Daya Fund, which supports the care of animals and birds in both the U.S. and India, to help provide food, shelter, and medical support. Karuna Day reminds the JCNC Sangh to practice Ahimsa not just in thought, but in action, and to live by the teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir through kindness, reflection, and protection of all living beings.

**A Path from Shravak to Sadhu Bhagwant - JCNC's Community Member Shri Sahilbhai Shah**

Diksha is one of the most sacred steps in a Jain's spiritual path—when one renounces worldly life to follow the path of Sanyasa to seek Moksha. In 2012, JCNC was blessed to witness this moment when Sahilbhai Shah, an active member of the Sangh, embraced Sadhu Diksha. Known for his deep involvement in temple bhakti, swadhyay, and seva, Sahilbhai chose to give up all material life and fully dedicate himself to the teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir. He took Diksha at Girnarji Maha Tirth under Param Pujya Acharya Shri Hemvallabh Suriswarji, receiving the monastic name Muni Shrim Vallabh Maharaj Saheb. Many JCNC members traveled to Girnarji for the ceremony, and a local Diksha Weekend was held at JCNC with pooja, bhakti, and educational programs. A special skit was performed to share his spiritual journey with the community.



**First Diksha Ceremony in the USA: Badi Diksha of Sadhvi Sanghamitraj**

JCNC had the historic honor of hosting the first-ever Jain Badi Diksha ceremony in the United States on April 8, 2012, when Sadhvi Sanghamitraj, formerly known as Mangalamji, took her final vows of renunciation at JCNC.

Sadhvi Sanghamitraj has been associated with Veerayatan, Bihar, India since early childhood. By the age of six, she had memorized important Jain scriptures such as Bhaktamar Stotra, Kalyan Mandir Stotra, and Tatvartha Sutra. Under the divine guidance of Acharya Shri Chandanaji Maharaj and Pujya Gurudev Amar Muniji Maharaj, she studied Jain scriptures and ancient languages like Sanskrit and Prakrit. She is also known for her melodious voice, which has touched the hearts of many across the world.



Her initial Diksha took place on December 20, 2011, at Veerayatan, Rajgir, where she received the new name Sadhvi Sanghamitra. The Badi Diksha,



*Let compassion  
flow—from your  
heart to all beings  
and our Earth.*

*From soul to soul,  
with love for all  
life.*



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**JCNC**  
*25th Anniversary*  
**FROM THE DALAL FAMILY**

marking the final phase of initiation, was held at the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) in Milpitas, California. This momentous event was a milestone for the global Jain community and a proud moment for the JCNC.

### **Bahuman of Mumukshu Shri Rishibhai Zaveri – February 2025**

On June 8, 2025, Rishibhai Zaveri, a former software engineer, embraced Sadhu Diksha at Shahpur Tirth, Maharashtra. Before this life-changing moment, he visited JCNC from February 16–18, 2025, giving the Sangh a chance to honor his spiritual path through a heartfelt bahuman program.

With a background in technology and a deep spiritual calling, Rishibhai shared his journey with the JCNC community. His visit included darshan, seva-pooja, chaitya vandan, and a musical procession joined by devotees of all ages. During the bahuman ceremony, he engaged with Pathshala students, answering their questions and inspiring meaningful conversations. He also met with young professionals to discuss his path from a successful career to spiritual renunciation. A highlight of the event was the Upkaran Vandnawali, where youth took personal abhigrahs (vows)— such as limiting food items to 3 or 6 per day, committing to 500-800 hours of swadhyay in a year, observing 365 days of santharo, completing 1400 samayik in a year, and spending 100 days with Sadhu bhagwant. It was a truly amazing experience for all attendees. Throughout the weekend, Rishibhai visited community homes for pagla, offering blessings and creating lasting memories. Upon taking Diksha, he received his new name: Rushihem Vijayji Maharaj Sahebji. The JCNC Sangh proudly offers anumodana and wishes him strength and peace as he begins his new journey, inspiring others through his devotion and example on the path of Sayyam and Moksha.



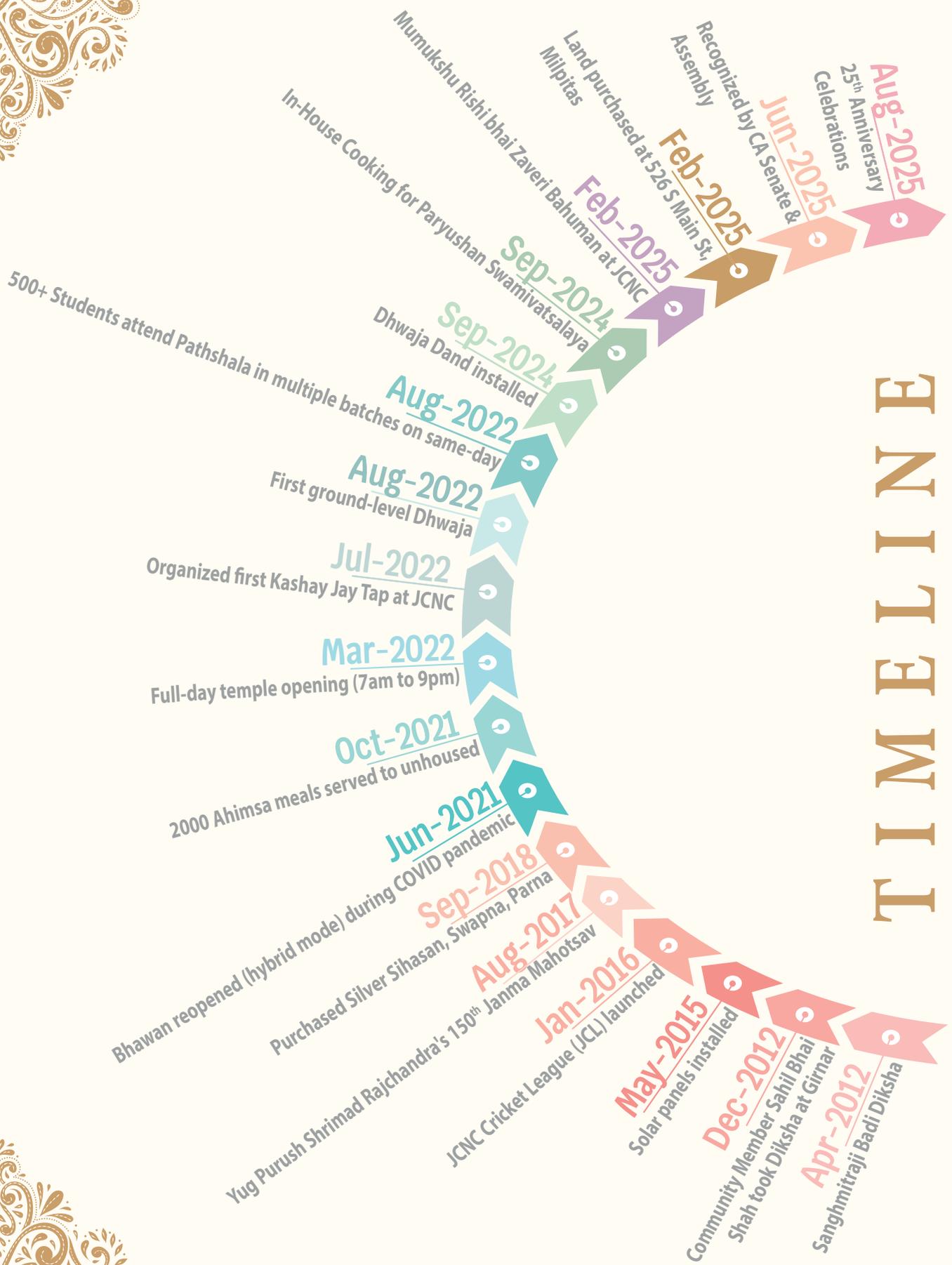
*Muni Shri Rushihem Vijayji Maharaj Sahebji*

### **Anjan Shalaka Pratimaji of Jain Temple of LA (JTLA) Sangh at JCNC – March 2025**

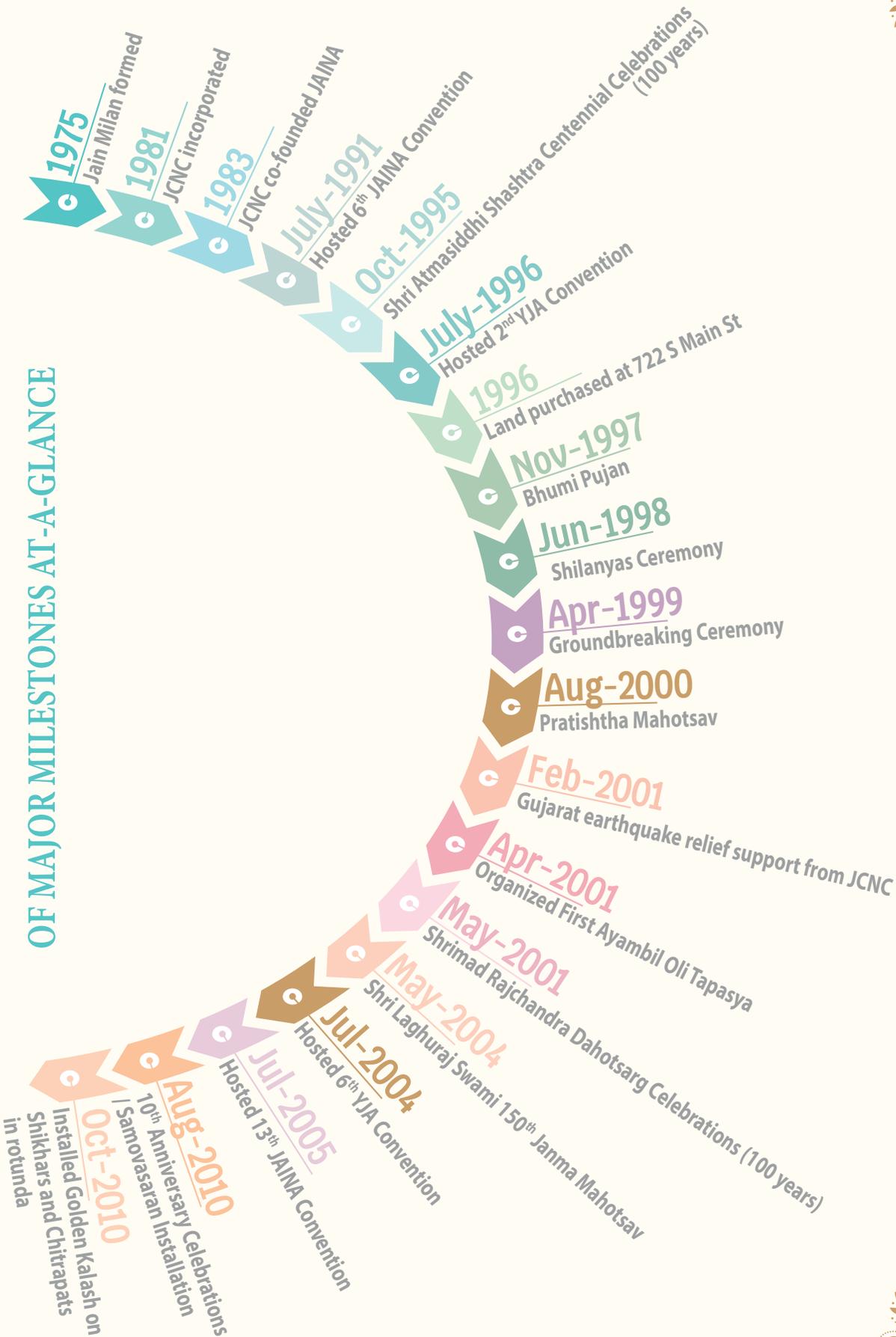
On March 20–21, 2025, JCNC had the honor of hosting all AnjanShalaka Pratimajis during their sacred journey from India to the Jain Temple of Los Angeles (JTLA). This special visit brought immense joy, devotion, and Dharm Laabh to the entire Sangh. The Rang Mandap was beautifully



# TIME LINE



# OF MAJOR MILESTONES AT-A-GLANCE

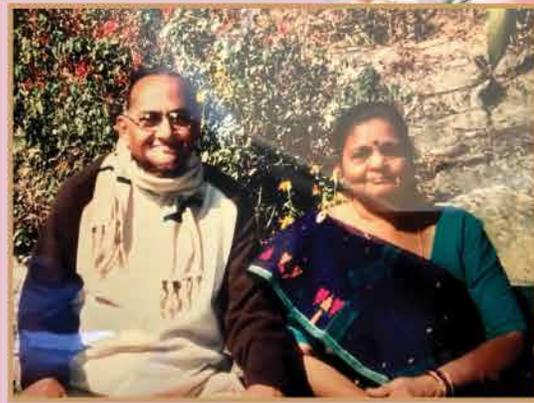


## BEST COMPLIMENTS

for the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the

### Jain Center Of Northern California

On such an auspicious milestone of completing 25 years of Pran Prathishta Mahotsav of JCNC, we wish all members heartfelt congratulations.



“ सर्वे जीवाः परमशान्तिं, अनन्तज्ञानं, चिरानन्दं प्राप्नुयुः ”

“May every soul attain supreme peace, boundless wisdom and eternal joy”

Deven, Sheetal and Kavisha Shah

arranged to welcome the Bhagwanjis, creating an atmosphere that truly felt like a “Derasar within a Derasar.” Seeing the pratimajis along with Devi-Devtas was an unforgettable and emotional experience for all. JCNC thanks JTLA for allowing the pratimajis to be placed in our Rang Mandap, especially after all Ponkhna Vidhi RSVPs filled within just two minutes. A heartfelt Bhavna, led by JCNC bhavna team was dedicated to Shree Shankeshwar Parsvsnath Bhagwan, Shree Munisuvrat Bhagwan, and Shree Neminam Bhagwan. The bhakti expressed moved everyone present. This blessed visit brought punya, unity, and spiritual upliftment, reminding the JCNC community of the power of sangh bhakti, seva, and shared dharma.

### **Regular Weekend Religious Activities at JCNC**

JCNC offers a range of weekly religious programs designed to support spiritual growth, community connection, and consistent dharma practice. The monthly schedule includes:

- Snatra Pooja on the first Saturday of every month
- Bhaktamar Paath on the second Saturday
- Bhakti Bhavana on the third Friday evening
- Kids’ Pooja, honoring both Digambar and Shwetambar traditions, on the third Saturday
- Navkar Mantra Jaap on the fourth Saturday
- Biweekly Atmasiddhi Bhakti and Vaanchan

These ongoing programs allow community members to remain spiritually engaged throughout the month. Whether through pooja, path, bhavana, or mantra jaap, each activity provides a space for reflection, learning, and inner upliftment, helping to cultivate a strong foundation in Jain values and daily practice.

### **Saraswati Pujan at JCNC – Honoring the Goddess of Wisdom**

On February 1, 2025, JCNC held Saraswati Pujan for the first time, celebrating Saraswati Devi, the symbol of knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual light. The puja was led by Viragbhai, and over 250 community members took part in this uplifting event.



The gathering was filled with bhakti and inspiration, as devotees offered prayers for right knowledge and clarity—key foundations of Jain dharma. The puja was well-received and marked a beautiful step in JCNC’s growing focus on spiritual learning and inner development.

### **Adult Swadhyay at JCNC – Deepening Knowledge Through Reflection**

Swadhyay, the study of Jain scriptures, is an important spiritual practice that helps cultivate right faith, knowledge, and conduct. At JCNC, Adult Swadhyay sessions are held regularly during the Pathshala calendar year. These sessions offer a space for learning, reflection, and deeper understanding of Jain philosophy and values. Whether exploring basic principles or advanced texts, Swadhyay at JCNC supports personal growth and builds a stronger sense of spiritual community. The Sangh’s continued commitment to learning reflects the central Jain belief that gyan (knowledge) is key to spiritual progress.



**“Slowly but surely, we must stop consuming animal products in today’s time, and start moving towards veganism.”**

*On 27th August 2022, Rashtrasant Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb shared his views on Veganism and asked his followers to gradually begin moving away from animal products. This Pravachan event was live-streamed during Paryushan Mahaparva 2022.*

Watch entire  
4-min clip here



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### **Observing Varshitap Parna at JCNC**

In 2024, JCNC introduced a new spiritual tradition by hosting Varshitap Parna on Akshaya Tritiya to honor tapasvis who completed the 13-month, 13-day Varshitap—one of Jainism's most revered austerities. The Executive Committee began this tradition to recognize the deep spiritual efforts of Sangh members. In 2024, Parna and Bahuman were held for three tapasvis, and in 2025, the Sangh celebrated two more, offering anumodana and heartfelt respect.

These events give the community a chance to witness and support true sadhana, while inspiring others to pursue self-discipline and inner growth. JCNC welcomes and encourages future tapasvis to take on Varshitap, with full support from the Sangh.

### **A Temple Open All Day, Serving All Generations**

Since mid-2022, JCNC Jain Bhavan has been open daily from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM, with pooja available until 4:00 PM. This extended schedule is rare—even among Jain temples in the U.S. and India—and reflects JCNC's deep commitment to serving the community's spiritual needs. The flexibility allows individuals to visit at their convenience, including school children who often come for darshan and pooja in the late afternoon. JCNC is proud to offer this unique opportunity, and it's heartening to see the community embracing it fully.

### **Celebrating 25 Years of Our Jain Bhawan with Spiritual Dedication**

The year 2025 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Jain Bhawan—a milestone filled with joy, gratitude, and spiritual dedication. To honor this occasion, JCNC has launched a journey of monthly sadhana from April to August, leading up to the main celebration from July 25 to August 5.

- In April, the Sangh recited over 1 million Navkar Mantras, far surpassing the 250,000 goal.
- In May, members completed 51,000 Uvassagaharam Stotras and 41,000 Logassa Sutras, more than doubling the target.
- In June, over 1,200 Bhaktamar Stotras and 950 samayiks were performed.
- In July, the goal is to reach 2.5 million Navkar Jaaps and complete the Sakli Ayambil.

These efforts reflect the unity and devotion of the JCNC community. They not only celebrate the legacy of our Jain Bhawan, but also strengthen our connection to Jain dharma and sadhana. As we approach this special occasion, let us continue this journey with joy, discipline, and shared bhaav, celebrating 25 years of community, values, and spiritual growth.

### **Walking the Path of Faith Together**

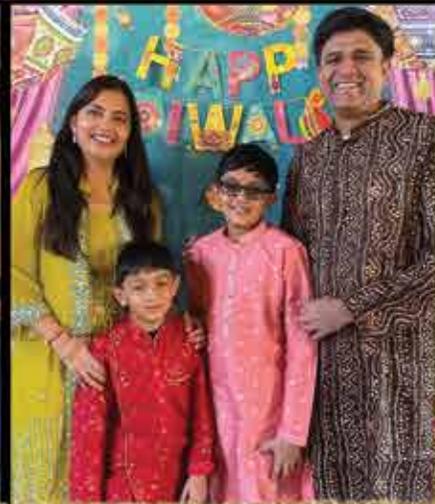


JCNC is not just a temple—it is a spiritual place starting with 500 members in the year 2000 to 5000+ in 2025, where traditions are upheld, the soul is nourished, and dharma flourishes. Whether through tapasya, bhakti, pooja, or community service, the Sangh continues to walk the path shown by Bhagwan Mahavir. With every passing year, our devotion grows deeper, our connections stronger, and our commitment to Jain values more vibrant.

*May JCNC continue to be a guiding light for generations to come, helping all souls move closer to liberation.*

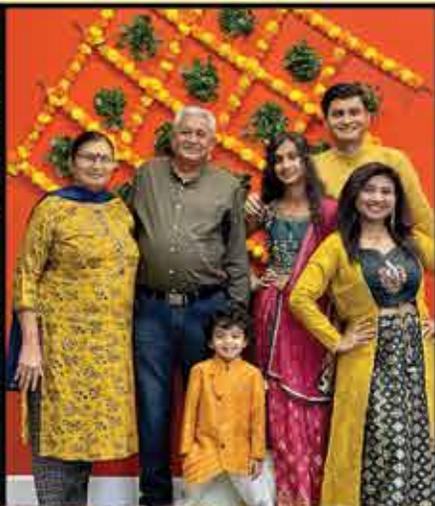


*Our JCNC marks its Silver Year,  
With Kalyan Mitras holding dear.  
Wellwishers walking, hand-in-hand,  
Supporting harmony through the land.  
Past growth achieved, a hopeful sign,  
May future blessings intertwine.  
Let Sangh flourish, spirits climb,  
Manifold growth, transcending time.*





# KALYAN MITRA





Twenty-five years, a journey of grace, **JCNC** shines, a sacred place.  
From dreams once sown with faith and care, to a temple of love, open and rare.

**Ankit & Aesha Sanghavi, Khushi & Heer , Uramila Ben Sanghavi( Dadi)**

**"Star kidz family Daycare LLC"**

Wishing a significant milestone  
with heartwarming wishes for a

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Celebration of **JCNC**.



Hemant, Anita, Smit, Palak

# The Next 25 Years: Transitioning Vision at the Jain Center of Northern California

*Nitin Shah, Co-chair the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Committee, Past President, Past Board Chair*



The **Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC)** has been a pillar of the Jain community for decades in Northern California, providing a space for worship, education, and cultural preservation. For the last 25 years, JCNC has been existing and progressing harmoniously with 5 sects of Jains practicing their beliefs, respecting each other's beliefs and understanding each other's perspective. As we look ahead to the next 25 years, it is essential to envision how JCNC will evolve to meet the changing needs of its members while staying true to Jain principles.

## **Expanding Spiritual and Religious Services:**

One of the core missions of JCNC is to provide a spiritual haven for Jains of all sects/traditions. In the coming decades, the center aims to expand its religious offerings by:

- *Embracing Technology in Worship* – Virtual darshan, online pravachans (discourses), and interactive learning platforms which will allow global access to Jain teachings.
- *Enhanced Youth Engagement* – Developing innovative programs tailored for younger generations, such as gamified learning, mobile apps, and mentorship initiatives.
- *Intrafaith, Interfaith and Community Outreach* – Strengthening relationships with various Jain sects within the organization and with other religious organizations to promote peace, understanding and non-violence on a broader scale.

## **Sustainability and Ahimsa-Driven Initiatives:**

Jainism emphasizes non-violence (ahimsa) and environmental consciousness. Over the next 25 years, JCNC will take a leadership role in:

- *Becoming a Green Model Temple* – The Center has implemented using renewable solar energy solutions, eco-friendly infrastructure, and water conservation systems.
- *Promoting a Plant-Based Lifestyle* – Hosting educational seminars and food festivals to encourage ethical eating habits aligned with Jain values.
- *Encouraging Sustainable Living* – Introducing zero-waste initiatives by minimizing paper and plastic products and develop sustainable consumption practices among community members.

## **Education and Knowledge Expansion:**

The preservation of Jain philosophy is crucial for future generations. JCNC will focus on:

- *Advanced Jain Studies Programs* – Partnering with universities to create accredited courses on Jain philosophy and ethics.
- *Leadership Training* – Grooming young leaders to take active roles in both community service and professional fields while integrating Jain principles.
- *Digital Library and Archives* – Creating an accessible repository of Jain scriptures, research papers, and historical documents.



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## Strengthening Community and Philanthropy:

A thriving community requires continuous support and outreach.

JCNC plans to:

- *Expand Social Services* – Offering healthcare awareness, senior support programs, and mental wellness resources.
- *Global Humanitarian Efforts* – Collaborating with international Jain organizations to provide aid and promote peace initiatives worldwide.
- *Economic Empowerment Programs* – Assisting community members with career growth, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

## Conclusion:

The Jain Center of Northern California is poised for a transformative journey over the next 25 years. By blending tradition with innovation, sustainability with spirituality, and community service with global impact, JCNC will continue to be a beacon of Jain values for generations to come. With the collective efforts of its members, the center will not only preserve Jain heritage but also inspire a more compassionate and sustainable world.

Let's embark on this journey together, building a future that reflects our highest aspirations and deepest convictions.





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*Heartfelt Congratulations on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jain Center of Northern California!*

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# Śrīmad Rājchandra: The Spiritual Visionary Whose Teachings Bridge Traditions and Inspire Generations

*By Pramod Patel and Cogen Bohanec, MA, PhD*

## Life & History



Śrīmad Rājchandra (1867-1901), born Lakshminandan Mehta in Vavaniya, Gujarat, was later renamed Raichand and later Rājchandra. His mother was Jain, and his father was a Vaiṣṇava Hindu. As a young boy, he was drawn to the Kṛṣṇa bhakti tradition of his father and was initiated into Vaiṣṇavaism by a sadhu named Ramadas. He dreamed of leading Kṛṣṇa devotees and initially rejected Jainism due to its denial of a monotheistic God. However, he was drawn to Jainism's doctrine of ahiṃsā and believed it was the best path to liberation from karmic bondage when his neck beads broke, symbolizing his initiation as a Krishna devotee.

Rājchandra was seven years old in 1874 when he recalled his past lives (*jāti smaraṇa jñāna*). This spiritual awakening occurred after a neighbor's snake bite death, prompting his father to explain the body's separation. Witnessing the cremation, he remembered his past lives and resumed his spiritual progress. This experience is documented in his poems, and a monument commemorates it. *Jāti smaraṇa* requires intense *sādhana* practice, and Rājchandra's case suggests the continuation of his spiritual effects from previous lives, contributing to his wisdom despite his youth.

Young Rājchandra, a prodigious student, completed seven grades in two years and began composing poetry at eight. He spoke in public at ten, wrote for newspapers and magazines by eleven, and won awards for his writings. He mastered Hindi, Sanskrit, and Magadhi and translated Jain scriptures into Gujarati. Recognized by govern officials at thirteen, he became a respected community member despite his young age. By fifteen, he was called Kavi ("Poet") for his works on Rāma and Kṛṣṇa. He adopted the Jain tradition at sixteen.

Rājchandra's mastery of *avadhāna*, a traditional demonstration of mental acumen, involved performing multiple tasks concurrently. This included improvisational poetry, following specific themes, meters, forms, words, and prosodic constraints, while enduring intentional distractions and multitasking. The examinee must remember previous questions, lines of poetry, and constraints, and recite the entire poem upon completion. The title of Avadhāni is bestowed on those who complete a specific number of concurrent tasks, ranging from eight to 1,000.

At 16 (1884), Rājchandra witnessed an *avadhāna* in Morbi and learned the technique, performing a 12-tasked *avadhāna* two days later. Praised for his skill, he performed 16, 52, and finally 100 Avadhāna (*śatāavadhāna*) at 20, earning gold medals and the title of Sakṣat Saravatī. However, he realized fame hindered spiritual progress and stopped participating by 20. Renouncing astrology and his successful gem business for the same reason, he sacrificed worldly opportunities for a religious life and was frustrated by attention, often seeking solitude for spiritual practice.

Despite his preference for the unmarried life, Śrīmad married Zabakben, as a matter of social duty that he believed was ordained by karma. He maintained equanimity towards his wife, while grappling with his renunciation from worldly life as a tension between business, family, and spiritual progression that resonates with many devotees.



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In 1887, he wrote the *Mokṣa-māḷa*, an accessible text to the broader public. At 29, he composed the *Ātma-siddha* in a single sitting. Other notable works include *Strī Niti Bodhaka*, *Sad-bodha-śataka*, *Bhavana Bodha*, *Namirāja*, *Śurvira Smaraṇa*, and over 900 letters. He also wrote about *Samyati Dharma* and composed commentaries on the *Mokṣa Siddhānta*, and works by Kundakunda and Yaśovijaya.

### Self-Realization

Śrīmad's self-realization occurred in 1890 at the age of 23 while meditating under a mango tree in Uttarsanda. While we cannot know the exact extent of his self-realization, since he was a *vītaraja jñānī* he may have achieved as high as the 13th *guṇasthāna*. Despite this, he continued as a householder for six years, becoming successful in his business due to his honesty and moral integrity.

During this time, Rājendra met Mohandas K. Gandhi, who later became known as the “Mahātma.” They exchanged letters while Gandhi was in South Africa. Gandhi referred to Rājendra as his spiritual guide and helper during his spiritual journey. Though Gandhi never became his disciple, Gandhi was deeply influenced by Rājendra's Jain ethos of non-violence (*ahimsā*). Their relationship made Śrīmad known outside his community, as Gandhi's writings are the most accessible source of about Śrīmad's life to many people outside of Gujarat. Gandhi and Śrīmad remained close until his death, and their relationship is a source of pride for his followers.

By his late 20s, despite being a householder, Śrīmad had been established as an important religious teacher, attracting massive crowds to his discourses. His closest disciples, including Juthabhai Ujamshi, Ambalalbai Lalchand, Sri Lalluji Maharja, and Sobhagbhai of Salya, achieved self-realization.

At 30, Śrīmad retired from householder and business life, taking vows of celibacy. He spent four months in Charotar practicing austerities, as customary for mendicants. In Khambat, he explained difficult Jain scriptures to mendicants, including Lalluji, who asked his guru to study under Śrīmad. Lalluji removed his *muh patti* to abandon mendicant life and fully commit to Śrīmad's teachings, inspiring others to do the same. After Śrīmad's death, Lalluji continued as a mendicant, spreading Śrīmad's teachings in Gujarat.

At 32, during a three-month retreat in Idar, seven Sthānakvāsī disciples who were his followers accompanied him, much to Śrīmad's dismay, who desired to be incognito. Śrīmad instructed them while sitting on a stone believed to be where Mahāvīra had meditated. Despite their sectarian differences, they visited temples and removed their *muh pattis* to demonstrate the non-sectarianism nature of their teacher.

Śrīmad developed a digestive disorder in 1900, but no specific illness was diagnosed. Under his doctor's advice, he traveled to the Gujarat coast. He had lost a lot of weight; by 1901, he was only 45 pounds, compared to 65 pounds in 1900. It's often a point of discussion about the degree to which his emaciation was deliberate, and if his austerities were the cause of his death as a form of *sallekhana*. What is clear is that he was believed to have a digestive disorder that was perhaps antagonized by his austerities and his detachment from the body. At any rate, Śrīmad left this world on April 9, 1901, in Rajkot at age 34. He is described as having a peaceful and controlled death in the spirit of one who has an advanced level of spiritual realization. Śrīmad's devotees believe he'll soon attain *mokṣa*, and believe his soul reincarnated in the presence of a Tīrthaṅkara in the realm known as Mahāvidhea,

### Legacy

While Śrīmad deviated from the mendicant model to some extent since he was a lay practitioner, his personal qualities and life history align with the saintly criteria of a great Jain teacher in many ways.

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Śrīmad exemplified characteristics commonly associated with Jain saints, such as ascetic practices like meditation and solitude. These austerities inspired his followers and aligned with *śramaṇa* norms. For example, the Jain tradition holds that initiation into mendicancy involves a spectacle of wealthy householders exchanging their lavish lifestyles for a life of mendicancy. The initiate is adorned in jewels and opulent clothing before renouncing them, highlighting the material sacrifice and the superiority of spiritual wealth. Śrīmad's renunciation of his successful business and worldly life follows this expectation.

Further, Śrīmad was generally believed to possess supernatural abilities like telepathy, future prediction, mental agility, and the memory of past lives, which his devotees attributed to his inner purity. Śrīmad, like other Jain saints, received auspicious visions before birth and was a child prodigy. His biographies credit his supernatural abilities with being equivalent to those of saints, providing evidence of his religious authority. However, he renounced these powers when they threatened his progress, following the saintly code. Unlike some saints who use their powers for personal gain, at times Śrīmad used his healing influence to help people find peace during illness and death. Śrīmad is believed to have been in his final incarnation before liberation, evidence by the fact that he possessed supernatural abilities like telepathy, future prediction, mental agility, and past life memory, attributed to his purity. Stories about his extraordinary abilities are known orally.

While many lay Jains have been venerated, Śrīmad is unique due to the extent of his veneration. He is considered divine, his writings sacred literature, and his image worshipped beyond usual accolades for a lay person. It's rare for non-initiated mendicants to achieve such status.

As a unified tradition, the teachings of Śrīmad have gained popularity in diaspora communities, including East Africa, the UK, and North America, among Gujarati-speaking Jains. However, the community is diverse, comprising various factions. Estimates of followers range from 100,000 to 400,000, with growth potential. Śrīmad's devotees distinguish themselves by honoring his life and teachings, accepting his Gujarati writings as sacred scripture, and venerating his image.

Most followers are hereditary Jains from Śvetāmbara or Sthānakavāsī families due to their close relationship to Gujarat. His followers adhere to general Jain traditions, festivals, practices, and beliefs. Most followers identify as Jain and follow dietary restrictions, but notably, there is a strong Vaiṣṇava influence in Śrīmad's teachings and a Vaiṣṇava presence amongst his followers, reflecting his early affinity, family connections, and initiation as a Krishna bhakta. Śrīmad taught a universal truth, attainable by his followers, and it relates to self-realization, which was attained by Śrīmad and attainable by his followers. Since Truth is universal, it's not exclusive to Jainism, and some devotees may even describe Christ and Buddha as self-realized people. They emphasize that religion's purpose is for the soul's emancipation, not for religious tradition or sectarian identity.

The tradition that follows Śrīmad is a modern Jain bhakti movement, with *sad-guru bhakti* being the primary religious instruction for all Śrīmad's disciples. This practice involves various activities, such as devotional singing, mantras recitation, scriptural study, and communal activities. Śrīmad's teachings on guru bhakti are its principal religious instruction for liberation and are universal to the Śrīmad Rājendra movement. The *Ātma-siddhi* defines self-realization as the aspirant's goal and devotion to a true guru as the path to achieving it. Śrīmad identifies the soul's inherent quality for *mokṣa* but states that it can only be realized through the guidance of a true guru. Disciples learn from their guru's conduct as much as religious instruction, benefiting from close proximity to the guru. While the guru inspires and instructs, the disciple is ultimately responsible for liberation. *Bhāva* (sentiment or mood) during one's spiritual practice and life is the active agent, causing purifying effects. Proper *bhāva* enhances worship's efficacy, while worldly desires lead to demeritorious karma.

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From-  
Varsha & Ashok  
Amish & Sushmi  
Apoorva, Nirmita & Sahana

Devotional feelings for the guru generate the correct *bhāva*.

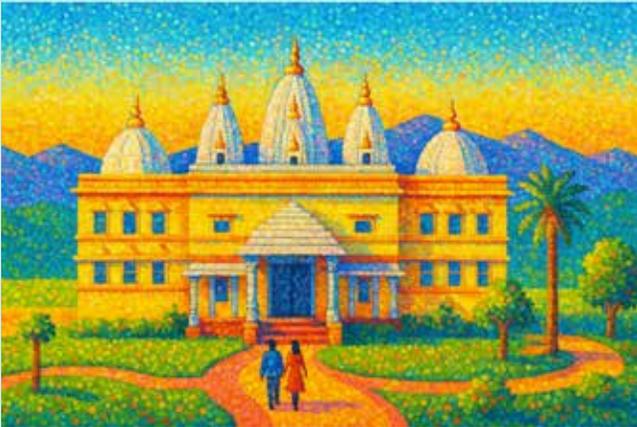
Thus, following the sad-guru's *ājñā*, or "directives," is of critical importance for the devotee. The *Ātma-siddhi* (ĀS) tells us that the Sad-guru possesses direct knowledge of reality and is accessible within one's proximity, offering the best guidance to help us reach transcendental goals. They exhibit a threefold consistency between thoughts, words, and actions, and by following their teachings (*ājñā-dhār*), we can greatly benefit from their guidance (ĀS 35). Confusion about the nature of the self (*ātma-bhrāṃti*) is a significant affliction, and the Sad-guru acts as a wise doctor, providing a directive akin to medicine, which is meditation (*dhyāna*) and reflection (*vicāra*, ĀŚ 129). All souls are essentially the same as liberated beings (*siddha*) from a transcendental view, and those who realize this become liberated. The Sad-guru, the guru's directive (*ājñā*), and those who have attained full enlightenment (*jina-daśa*) are instrumental in advancing souls to liberation (ĀS 135). Disregarding the means of attainment (such as the Sad-guru, *ājñā*, and *jinadaśa*) while focusing solely on the transcendental goal results in confusion and prevents attaining perfected liberation (*siddhatva*) (ĀS 136), and therefore *guru-bhakti* is essential for spiritual advancement.

### Conclusion

Śrīmad Rājcandra's life and teachings continue to resonate with followers worldwide, as an important aspect of the Jain tradition displaying a unique expression of devotional practice. Śrīmad's emphasis on the path to self-realization through the guidance of a true guru, as well as the importance of inner purity and renunciation, offers a universal message that transcends traditional religious boundaries not only amongst Jain sects, but amongst the world's religious teachings more broadly. Śrīmad's legacy, marked by his profound spiritual insight, commitment to *ahimsā*, and influence on notable figures like Mahatma Gandhi, underscores the enduring impact of his teachings and the growth potential of his movement within diverse global communities. As a figure who embraced the spiritual potential even within worldly aspects of life, Śrīmad Rājcandra exemplifies the transformative power of devotion and the pursuit of truth, and his life and message are as important to the world today as they were when he was living in this world.

---

*Pramod Patel is a JCNC Life Benefactor and Cogen Bohanec, PhD is Assistant Professor of Sanskrit and Jain Studies, Arihanta Institute*





*Congratulations*

*to the*

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# Evolving Jain Dharma: Tradition and Adaptation in North America

By Sulekh C. Jain, PhD



## Introduction

*The Jain dharma, the Jain faith and way of life includes the life of the Jains as a community or group, their thinking, writings, behavior, art, drama, sculpture, poojas, spirituality, rituals, celebrations and much more.*

Over the past 65 years, approximately 150,000 Jains, primarily from India, Kenya, and Uganda, have migrated to North America, bringing their own gods, diverse traditions and languages. While rooted in their Indian heritage, the Jain diaspora in North America has evolved, adapting practices to new cultural contexts without altering the core principles of Jainism.

The Indian Jain Diaspora is highly educated, professional and affluent. Starting from the first generations of immigrant Jains, now we have 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation and, in some cases, even 4<sup>th</sup> generation Jains born and raised here in North America.

While the first generation, in addition to the use of English in their profession, spoke and used their own mother tongue for all social and religious activities, but for the subsequent generations born and raised here, primarily, English became their mother tongue, and they preferred the used of English in all religious activities and social celebration.

All these changes in demographics and other factors coupled with the very rapid advancements in communication and technology, necessitated and demanded changes for adoption to the new environments and their timely assimilation.

While living in North America, as per द्रव्य, क्षेत्र, काल और भाव (place, time, emotions/state, feeling and environment etc.), Jain diaspora here have continuously adapted the practice of their Jain religion, leading to changes in customs, traditions, rituals (poojas), and celebrations but no change in Principles and philosophies. This evolution reflects their efforts to assimilate and balance religious heritage with the cultural environment of their new home.

The evolving version of Jainism among the Jain diaspora in the United States and Canada reflects a blend of tradition and adaptation to the Western cultural and social environment. Here's how this "new Jainism" is shaping up:

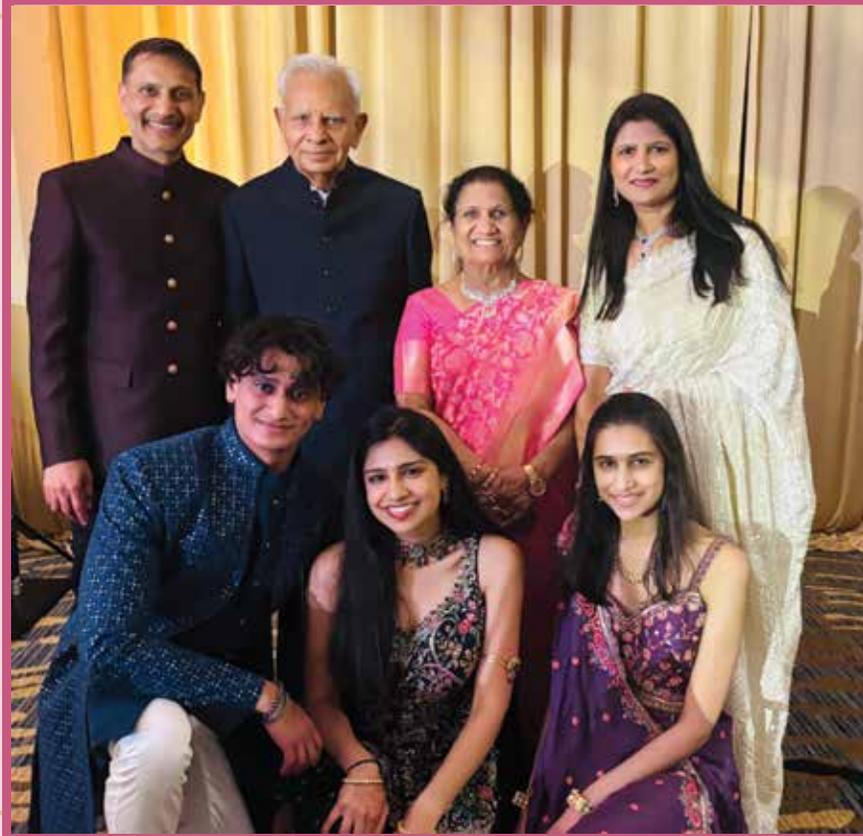
## Challenges and opportunities

- In India, Jainism is often practiced within the framework of sects like Shwetambar, Digambar, and Sthanakvasi etc. with somewhat distinct rituals and philosophies. However, in North America, these boundaries are softening. The diaspora often emphasizes shared values over sectarian differences, fostering a more unified Jain identity.
- Jains in North America face the dual challenge of preserving their religious heritage while integrating into a predominantly non-Jain society. This has sparked creativity in how they practice and share their faith, such as hosting vegan cooking workshops, interfaith dialogues, or charity drives inspired by Jain principles.



On this auspicious occasion of the  
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*Best Wishes*

From

Gauri bhai, Kanchan ben, Sandeep, Manisha,  
Tricia, Tia & Ryan Jain



## 1. Transformation to establish a non-sectarian Jain Dharma,

Interestingly, from the very beginning, the Jain diaspora in North America envisioned the need to create a non- sectarian Jain Dharma that will represent all Jains irrespective of their own sectarian baggage and outlook of language, customs and parts of India they come from. To achieve and implement this vision and mission, following practical and far-reaching steps were taken

- ***Nonsectarian naming of all Jain Centers and organizations.*** Mostly these were named after the town or City where these were situated and established such as Jain Center of Greater Boston, Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago, Jain Society of Houston etc. and none were named as Digambar or Shwetambar etc. Unfortunately, and only recently, a few organizations have come up with sectarian names, but this number is still quite small.
- ***Nonsectarian layout of Jain Temples and Pratimas.*** This was achieved by accommodating all traditions under one roof or place and both Digambar and Shwetambar pratimas on one platform /vedi.
- ***Joint celebration of Jain festivals such as Mahavir Jayanti, Paryushan and Das Lakshan Parvas.***
- ***Inviting scholars and sadhus/monks and nuns of all traditions and sects from India for spiritual guidance and discourses only and not to interfere in the running of the Jain places and organizations in North America.***
- ***Implementation of Non-Sectarian Sunday pathshala system, curriculums, teachers and books etc.***
- ***Emphasis on Jain Way of Life rather than purely on Rituals.***

## 2. Establishment of Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA)

To advance the vision and mission of one Jain with a broad outlook and free from Sectarianism in 1981, a major milestone was achieved by establishing a Central/Apex Body representing all Jains without any non-sectarianism. JAINA is a unique, unifier and forward-looking organization, the only one of its types in the entire Jain world.

During the last 44 years of its existence, JAINA has grown exponentially with nearly 70 organizations as its members, several dozen sub committees, quarterly Magazine “JAIN DIGEST” weakly electronic newsletter, mailing of a very beautiful Calendar every year, Youth exchange program, JAINA convention every 2 years (attended by many Thousand Jains from North America and other countries, recognition and awards to recognize the vision and services of many and JAINA Ebrary ( a huge resource of Jain agmas).

JAINA also elects its president and Executive Board from all section of Jain diaspora without regard to sectarianism and gender. In fact, one of the Past Presidents of JAINA was a woman from Toronto, Canada and similarly most of the Jain Centers have elected women as their president.

## 3. Establishment of YJA and YJP with their own charter and standalone conventions.

4. **Institute Succession plans.** To bring in and to give chance to fresh blood, outlook and vision, JAINA and all Jain Centers established succession plans with elections every 2 years. This way, no individual will serve in one position of importance for his/her life.

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5. **Jain Presence in academia.** To share the richness and values of Jain Dharma to a wider non-Jain audience, during the last 15 years, some visionary Jain leaders have established Endowed Chairs and professorships in the teaching and research in Non-sectarian Jainism at more than 50 universities around the world (most in USA and Canada) .

## 6. **OTHER Major and Significant changes and Accomplishments**

### 6.1. **Institutionalization and Community Centers**

- **Temples and Jain Centers:** Many Jains have established temples and centers across North America. These serve as hubs for worship, community gatherings, and education.
- **Multi-tradition Representation:** Since Jains from various sects (Shwetambar, Digambar, Sthanakvasi, Terapanthi) come together, temples and centers often cater to all traditions, promoting a more unified Jain identity.

### 6.2. **Simplification of Rituals**

- **Focus on Philosophy:** Many practitioners emphasize core Jain principles like ahimsa (non-violence), Aparigrah (non-possessiveness), and anekantavada (multiple perspectives) over elaborate rituals.
- **Simplified Poojas:** Traditional rituals have been streamlined to fit busy lifestyles, often taking place during weekends or major festivals rather than daily.

### 6.3. **Education and Youth Engagement**

- **Pathshalas (Jain Schools):** Jain centers conduct weekly classes for children and youth to teach Jain philosophy, ethics, and scriptures, often in English.
- **Youth Camps and Conventions:** Organizations like YJA (Young Jains of America) and JAINA (Federation of Jain Associations in North America) organize retreats, conventions, and camps to engage the younger generation. These events often combine spirituality with discussions on modern challenges like climate change, mental health, and career development.

### 6.4. **Technology and Virtual Worship**

- **Digital Access:** Online lectures, virtual poojas, and Jain apps provide easy access to religious teachings and practices.
- **Global Connectivity:** Jains in North America frequently connect with teachers and monks in India via video conferences and live-streamed sermons.

### 6.5. **Interfaith and Outreach Efforts**

- Many Jains actively participate in interfaith dialogues, sharing their principles of non-violence and environmental sustainability with other religious and secular communities.
- The concept of ahimsa has resonated widely, aligning with global movements like veganism, animal rights, and environmental activism.

### 6.6. **Festivals and Celebrations**

- **Localized Celebrations:** Jain festivals like Paryushan and Mahavir Jayanti are celebrated on weekends to accommodate work and school schedules.

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to

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- **Cultural Adaptations:** Some celebrations incorporate North American elements, such as potlucks or combining traditional poojas with community service activities.

#### **6.7. Dietary Practices and Veganism**

- While vegetarianism is a core tenet, many Jains in North America are embracing veganism as an extension of ahimsa, avoiding not just meat but also dairy products due to ethical concerns about animal exploitation.

#### **6.8. Shift Toward Practical Jainism**

- There is an increasing emphasis on applying Jain principles to contemporary issues, such as environmental sustainability, mental well-being, and ethical business practices.
- Some Jains advocate for “practical Jainism,” focusing less on strict ritual adherence and more on living a principled, ethical life in harmony with Jain values.

#### **6.9. Gender and Social Dynamics**

- Women and youth often take active roles in leadership within Jain communities, which reflects a progressive shift compared to traditional practices in India.

#### **6.10. Universal Relevance of Jain Values**

- Jainism’s emphasis on **ahimsa** (non-violence) and **environmental consciousness** aligns seamlessly with global challenges like climate change, animal rights, and ethical consumption. This has allowed Jain teachings to transcend cultural boundaries, appealing even to non-Jains who resonate with its message of sustainability and compassion.

#### **6.11. From Rituals to Ethics**

- This shift toward a more ethics-driven practice of Jainism signifies a deep understanding of its philosophy. Many Jains are moving beyond ritualistic observances to embrace the essence of Jain values in their daily lives, influencing how they make decisions as individuals, families, and communities.

#### **6.12. The Role of Generational Exchange**

- Elders in the community often serve as the custodians of tradition, while the younger generation brings fresh perspectives and innovations. This intergenerational dialogue is shaping a version of Jainism that is both rooted in tradition and relevant to modern times. For example, youth initiatives often focus on applying Jain principles to social justice, technology, or entrepreneurship.

#### **6.13. Spiritual Leadership in a New Context**

- The lack of Jain monks and nuns living permanently in North America has shifted the responsibility of spiritual leadership to laypeople and scholars. Community leaders, often well-versed in both Jainism and Western culture, have stepped in to fill this gap, making spiritual teachings more accessible and relatable.

#### **6.14 Cross-Cultural Bridges**

- The North American Jain community has become a bridge between East and West, showcasing how an ancient religion can thrive in a modern, multicultural context. Festivals,



Our **JCNC** temple has been the cornerstone of our life. May its divine presence continue to bring peace, wisdom, and spiritual strength to all.

With Best wishes from -  
**Rhea & Ruhi, Megha & Jignesh  
 Uttamchand Shah Family**

**We are grateful to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jain Center of Northern California**

— a place that has been a meaningful part of our lives for over 15 years. Through religious activities, cultural events, and volunteer work (Seva), we have built a strong connection with the center. It has truly become a second home for our son, Riyansh, giving him a safe and caring space rooted in Jain values like Ahimsa, Satya, and Samyak Darshan. The center has helped shape his character and strengthen our family's bond with Jain Dharma and the teachings of the Tirthankaras.

We are thankful for the positive impact **JCNC** continues to have on our family and community. It remains a place of learning, belonging, and spiritual growth for the next generation. Wishing many more years of continued growth, unity, and inspiration.



**With heartfelt gratitude- Milan, Deval & Riyansh Shah**

public lectures, and participation in global initiatives highlight Jainism as a living tradition with universal relevance.

## 7. Challenges, Opportunities, new Jain Dharma and Legacy for the Future

- **Generational Divide:** While older generations strive to preserve traditional practices, younger generations often seek ways to integrate Jain values into their modern lives without rigid adherence to rituals. The pressures of assimilation can sometimes dilute religious practices, especially among second- and third-generation Jains. However, many young Jains are finding innovative ways to express their faith—through art, music, social media, or advocacy assuring that their identity remains vibrant and meaningful.
- **Cultural Hybridization:** This evolving Jainism is a blend of Indian heritage and North American culture, creating a dynamic identity that respects tradition while embracing modernity.
- The new Jainism in North America is not just a story of adaptation but adapting it to remain relevant, inclusive, and impactful in a globalized and fast-paced world. This is also a testament to the resilience and universality of its core principles. The evolving version of Jainism in North America is not just about sustaining a diaspora community—it is also about building a legacy. By investing in institutions, education, and intergenerational dialogue, the Jain community is ensuring that the faith will continue to grow and adapt for generations to come.
- North America’s Jain community is uniquely positioned to be a global leader in promoting Jain principles. By leveraging their resources, education, and networks, they can amplify Jain values on the world stage, particularly in areas like climate action, ethical leadership, and interfaith harmony.
- Jain values provide a timeless framework to address global challenges by offering ethical, sustainable, and compassionate solutions. They are not just spiritual ideals but practical tools for creating a more harmonious and sustainable world.

Jain values, deeply rooted in principles of non-violence, self-discipline, and sustainability, have begun to resonate globally, especially in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time. Here’s a look at how Jain principles are influencing global challenges:

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*Dr. Sulekh Chand Jain is a founder and co-founder of more than a dozen influential organizations and institutions across North America. With an unwavering commitment to Jainism and community service, he has held key leadership roles, including Secretary and President of several prominent Jain organizations such as the Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA), the Jain Society of Houston, and the Jain Center of Cincinnati/Dayton Ohio. In 2005, alongside Dr. Shugan Jain, he co-founded the International School for Jain Studies (ISJS), an institution that has profoundly shaped the landscape of Jain academic studies across North America, the U.K., Europe, and beyond.*



# *Congratulations*

to the Jain Center of Northern California &  
Bay Area Jain Community on the 25th Anniversary !!!



**From:**

**The Modi Family**

*Harshaben Bhupendra Modi*

*Jimita & Hiren Modi*

# Awakening the Path of Jain Yoga: A Journey of Transformation and Self-Discovery

By *Cogen Bohanec, MA, PhD*



Jain Yoga, rooted in the ancient wisdom of Jainism, offers a profound path for spiritual growth, self-discovery, and transformation. This timeless tradition, emphasizing non-violence (*ahimsā*), truthfulness (*satya*), and asceticism, has evolved over centuries, adapting to diverse cultural contexts, including modern Western societies.

## Historical Context of Jain Yoga

Jain Yoga draws inspiration from the teachings of Mahavira, the 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara of Jainism, who lived in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. The core tenets of Jainism, including the practice of meditation and self-discipline, are integral to Jain Yoga. Traditional texts, such as the *Tattvārtha Sūtra* and the *Samayasāra*, outline the philosophical foundations of Jain Yoga, highlighting the importance of inner purification, mind control, and sensory discipline (cf. Miller, 2019). The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, while primarily associated with Hinduism, also share conceptual overlaps with Jain practices, particularly in their focus on meditation and ethical living (cf. O'Brien-Kop, 2018). In pre-modern times, Jain Yoga was primarily practiced within monastic communities, where ascetic practices were emphasized. Monks and nuns engaged in rigorous meditation and physical austerities to attain spiritual liberation (*mokṣa*). The Siddhānta texts, which include commentaries on the *Tattvārtha Sūtra*, provide insights into the meditative practices and ethical guidelines that shaped traditional Jain Yoga (cf. Miller, 2019).

## Interface with the Modern Yoga Movement

The modern international yoga movement, which gained momentum in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, has seen a significant blending of various yoga traditions, including Jain Yoga. As yoga became popularized in the West, it often emphasized physical postures (*āsanas*) and breathing techniques (*prāṇāyāma*), sometimes at the expense of the deeper philosophical and ethical dimensions inherent in traditional practices (cf. Newcombe, 2009).

Jain practitioners have adapted their spiritual practices to contemporary settings, where mindfulness and meditation are increasingly recognized for their mental health benefits. Jain meditation techniques, focusing on inner peace and non-attachment, have resonated with mindfulness practices popularized in Western contexts. Jain practitioners in the diaspora have sought to maintain the integrity of their spiritual practices while also engaging with the broader yoga community. This has led to the adaptation of Jain Yoga principles within contemporary settings, where mindfulness and meditation practices are increasingly recognized for their mental health benefits. For instance, Jain meditation techniques, which focus on inner peace and non-attachment, have found resonance in mindfulness practices popularized in Western contexts (cf. Greeson, 2009).

Moreover, Western converts to Jainism have contributed to the dialogue between traditional Jain practices and modern yoga. Many converts are drawn to Jainism's emphasis on non-violence and ecological sustainability, aligning with contemporary concerns about environmental degradation. This



For 25 wonderful years, the Jain Center of California has nurtured our spiritual journeys and strengthened our community within the embrace of this beautiful Bhawan and Derasar. We extend our heartfelt congratulations on this significant milestone. With deep reverence for the Tirthankaras, we pray for their external grace to empower us to continue this path of spiritual growth and service for generations to come.

**Jai Jinendra**

**Bipin and Rekha Shah**

**Samir - Tanvi, Bodhi and Siona**

**Manisha - Ravi, Ronin and Leikh**

**Jasmine**

**Lafayette, California**

intersection has led to the development of courses and workshops that integrate Jain contemplative practices with broader yoga teachings, promoting a holistic approach to well-being that encompasses physical, mental, and spiritual health (cf. Miller, 2019).

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

Despite the growing interest in Jain Yoga within the modern yoga movement, challenges remain. The commercialization of yoga often overlooks the ethical and philosophical dimensions that are central to Jain teachings. Additionally, the emphasis on physical postures can sometimes overshadow the meditative and ascetic practices that are vital to Jain Yoga (cf. Newcombe, 2009).

However, there is an opportunity for greater integration and understanding. As awareness of the diverse roots of yoga increases, practitioners and scholars alike are beginning to explore the rich tapestry of traditions that contribute to contemporary yoga practices. This includes recognizing the contributions of Jainism and its unique approach to yoga as a means of spiritual development and ethical living (cf. Miller, 2019).

### **Jain Yoga as a Source of Hope for the Future**

In modern times, Jain Yoga is experiencing something of a resurgence, as its timeless principles and practices resonate deeply with contemporary spiritual seekers. The international yoga movement has provided a vibrant platform for Jain teachings to flourish on a global scale, introducing the values of *ahimsā* (non-violence), *aparigraha* (non-possessiveness), and asceticism to a new generation of practitioners. As Jain Yoga continues to evolve and adapt to modern contexts, it remains deeply rooted in its traditional heritage. The integration of Jain Yoga into the global yoga movement reflects both the challenges of preserving ancient practices in a rapidly changing world and the opportunities for cross-cultural exchange, innovation, and growth. In an era where the values of compassion, sustainability, and mindfulness are needed more than ever, the proliferation of Jain Yoga offers a beacon of hope. As the world grapples with the complexities of modern life, the timeless wisdom of Jainism provides a powerful antidote to the stresses and uncertainties of our times. Through its emphasis on non-violence, self-discipline, and inner transformation, Jain Yoga offers a holistic approach to well-being that encompasses physical, mental, and spiritual health. As this ancient tradition continues to inspire and guide modern spiritual seekers, its influence is poised to expand, fostering a more compassionate, sustainable, and mindful world for all.

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# Parasparopagraho Jīvānām: The Interconnected Web of Life and Its Scientific Foundations

By Dr Bipin Doshi and Vishal Mehta



## Preface

The Jain community faces a demographic challenge, with a fertility rate of 1.2 that, if sustained or declined further, could lead to an insignificant population by the end of this century. This raises a crucial question: how do we ensure that the teachings of Jain philosophy and the wisdom of Tirthankar Mahaveer remain alive?

More importantly, how do we ensure the cardinal principles of Jainism—Ahimsa (non-violence), Aparigraha (non-attachment), and Anekantavada (multiplicity of truths) stay relevant—in a way that is universally understandable, scientifically grounded, and logically acceptable, regardless of faith, nationality, socioeconomic status, or academic background?

The answer lies in a simple yet profound phrase: “**Parasparopagraho Jīvānām**”—All living beings are interdependent. This powerful concept is not just a philosophical statement but a universal truth deeply embedded in the fabric of existence. It serves as the foundation for understanding the interconnectedness of life and the delicate balance that sustains it.

**Ahimsa** (non-violence) is an inherent aspect of this interdependence, as any harm inflicted upon one part of the system inevitably disrupts the whole. When we exploit natural resources without restraint, pollute the environment, or engage in conflict, we are ultimately harming ourselves, for we exist within this same interconnected web. **Aparigraha** (non-accumulation / minimalism) is a natural extension of this principle, emphasizing that excessive accumulation or greed upsets the balance of nature, depriving others and creating social and ecological disharmony. **Anekantavada** (multi-dimensional thinking) reinforces this interdependence by encouraging an open-minded perspective—recognizing that truth is not singular and that different viewpoints contribute to a more holistic understanding of reality, just as diverse elements within an ecosystem sustain one another.

In a world increasingly defined by interconnected challenges—climate change, social inequality, and global conflicts—this phrase, *Parasparopagraho Jīvānām*, offers a universal framework for ethical & sustainable living. It reinforces the idea that the well-being of any one individual, species, or community is intrinsically tied to the well-being of all. The essence of *Parasparopagraho Jīvānām* echoes the ancient wisdom of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—“The world is one family”, reminding us that harmony and coexistence are not just ethical ideals but necessities for survival.

As we delve deeper into this article, we will explore how Jain philosophy aligns with global traditions and cutting-edge scientific discoveries, illustrating that the wisdom of our ancestors continues to offer solutions for a sustainable and harmonious future.

## Introduction

The Jain aphorism *Parasparopagraho Jīvānām*, from the *Tattvārtha Sūtra*, is often translated as “Souls render service to one another” or “All life is bound together by mutual support and interdependence.” This principle is fundamental to Jain ethics, reinforcing doctrines such as *Ahimsa* (non-violence) and *Anekantavada* (the doctrine of multiple perspectives). While this wisdom is deeply philosophical and spiritual, contemporary scientific research also supports the notion that

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## શ્રી પ્રભુશ્રીજીનો બોધ ઉપદેશામૃતમાંથી

આ બધાને મરણ તો એક વખતે જરૂર આવશે તો તે વખતે શું કરવું તે કહું છું. જેને સાંભળવું હોય તે સાંભળજો. ગ્રહણ કરવું હોય તે ગ્રહણ કરજો. પકડ કરી લેવી હોય તે પકડ કરી લેજો. કહેનાર કહી છૂટે વહેનાર વહી છૂટે.

‘પ્રીતી અનંતી પરથકી જે તોડે તે જોડે એહ.’

સગાસંબંધી, પૈસાટકા ઘરબાર, બૈરાંછોકરાં એ બધેથી પ્રીતિ ઉઠાવી, અહંમભાવ મમત્વભાવ ઉઠાવી લઈ. દેહ આદિ સર્વ પ્રત્યેથી મોહમૂર્છાભાવ બાળી જાળી. ભસ્મ કરી સ્નાનસૂતક કરી ચાલ્યા જવું છે. તો સ્ત્રી છું, પુરુષ છું, નાનો છું, મોટો છું એ સર્વ પર્યાયદ્રષ્ટિ છોડી શ્રી સદ્ ગુરૂએ જાણ્યો છે એવાં એક શુદ્ધ આત્મા હું છું એવી આત્મભાવના રાખવી. જ્યાં સુધી ભાન રહે ત્યાં સુધી ‘સહજાત્મસ્વરૂપ પરમગુરૂ’ મહામંત્રનું સ્મરણ રાખવું. ઉપયોગ બધામાંથી ઉઠાવી તેમાં રાખવો. એના જેવું કોઈ બીજું શરણ નથી. તો જ કલ્યાણ થશે બધેથી પ્રીતિ ઉઠાવી જેટલી આત્મા ઉપર પ્રીતિ કરી હશે તેટલું કલ્યાણ થશે. આત્મા સદ્ ગુરૂએ જાણ્યો છે. માટે સદ્ ગુરૂનું શરણ શ્રદ્ધા તેના ઉપર ભક્તિભાવ રૂચિ પ્રીતિ વધારી હશે તે જ કામ કરશે.

## શ્રી પ્રભુશ્રીજીનો બોધ ઉપદેશામૃતમાંથી

મરણ વખતે કંઈ ભાન નથી રહેતું. આમ બોલાવે કે ભા...ઈ તોય આંખ ઊંચી ન કરે તે શું હશે? કંઈ યાદ નહીં રહેતું હોય તેનું શું કારણ? ચેતન કંઈ જડ તો ઓછો થઈ જાય છે? પણ તે વખતે કશુંય જાણે ખબર નહીં! શું વેદનામાં ઘેરાઈ જતો હશે? આવરણ આવતું હશે?

સમકિતીને કેમ થતું હશે?

મુનિ મો. સમકિતીને તો ખબર રહે. પરિણામ સત્પુરુષે જણાવેલા લક્ષને અનુસરતાં રહે ભેદ પડ્યો હોય એટલે પોતે વેદનાથી જુદો છે એમ રહે અને બીજા બોલાવતાં હોય તે ય સાંભળે. પણ પોતાની ગતિ સુધારવાના પ્રયત્નમાં તે હોવાથી સર્ગાવહાલા બોલાવે તો ય ન બોલે એ કોઈ આત્માને મદદ કરી શકે તેમ તે જાણે છે. તેથી જે સાચું શરણ કે સત્પુરુષે આપેલું સ્મરણ તેમાં જ તેનો ઉપયોગ રાખવા તે પ્રયત્નશીલ હોય. સૌભાગ્યભાઈએ અંત વખતે અંબાલાલને જણાવ્યું હતું કે અંબાલાલ, સૌભાગ્યને બીજું ધ્યાન ન હો. પણ તમે મંત્રસ્મરણ મોટેથી બોલો છો તેમાં મારે મારો તાર જોડાયો હોય તેમાંથી વિક્ષેપ પામીને જોડાવું પડે છે.

સૌજન્ય: તારાબેન અને ભુલાભાઈ પટેલ, Belmont, CA.

Hearty Congratulations to JNC on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



all life—and indeed all matter—is interconnected in profound ways. This article explores similar principles in global philosophical traditions and examines scientific theories that corroborate Jain teachings.

## Philosophical Parallels Across Cultures

### Indian Philosophies

1. **Vedanta and Advaita:** The concept of *Brahman*, the ultimate interconnected reality, parallels *Parasparopagraho Jīvānām*. Vedanta posits that all beings are interconnected facets of the same divine consciousness.
2. **Buddhism:** The doctrine of *Pratītyasamutpāda* (dependent origination) states that all phenomena arise due to interdependent causes and conditions.
3. **Sankhya and Yoga:** These traditions recognize the interplay of *Purusha* (consciousness) and *Prakriti* (nature), emphasizing balance and interconnectedness in the universe.

### Global Philosophical Traditions

1. **Stoicism (Greece):** The Stoics believed in *cosmopolitanism*—the idea that all beings are part of a single, interdependent system.
2. **Taoism (China):** The *Dao De Jing* describes the universe as a web of interconnected forces (*Qi*), where balance and harmony govern existence.
3. **Indigenous Knowledge Systems:** Many indigenous traditions emphasize interdependence, particularly in ecological stewardship, recognizing humans as part of a vast, interconnected web of life.

### Quantum Entanglement and Parasparopagraho Jīvānām: The Interwoven Fabric of Existence

Quantum entanglement is a fundamental concept in quantum mechanics where particles become interconnected in such a way that the state of one particle instantaneously influences the state of another, regardless of the spatial distance between them. This phenomenon defies classical physics and suggests a deeper, non-local connectivity within the fabric of reality.

The effect of one entangled particle on another is instantaneous, surpassing the constraints of classical communication.

### Connection to Parasparopagraho Jīvānām

#### Philosophical Parallels

1. **Non-Separability:** Just as entangled particles remain connected beyond spatial constraints, Jain philosophy asserts that all souls and life forms are interwoven in an intricate web of existence.
2. **Mutual Interdependence:** The instantaneous nature of quantum entanglement mirrors the Jain belief that all beings affect one another's existence, reinforcing the principle of universal interconnectivity.
3. **Anekantavada (Multiplicity of Truths):** Quantum superposition aligns with the Jain doctrine that reality is multifaceted, where different perspectives reveal complementary truths.

### Complexity Theory and Ecosystems

Complexity theory studies how interconnected systems function, adapt, and evolve. Ecosystems are

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Jaya Bhimani, Rohan Chavan, Neel, Maya,  
and Jay Bhimani, Jaiman Chavan, Arun Bhimani.

prime examples of such systems, where seemingly minor changes can have ripple effects throughout the environment. For instance, the decline of bees due to habitat loss or pesticides disrupts pollination, affecting crop yields and global food security. This demonstrates how the survival of one species is intricately tied to the well-being of others, reinforcing the Jain principle that no life exists in isolation.

In a forest, trees exchange nutrients through fungal networks known as the “Wood Wide Web,” showcasing interdependence. A single tree’s health impacts not just its own growth but also the soil, microorganisms, and neighboring plants. These scientific observations echo the Jain understanding that harming one life form indirectly affects countless others.

### **The Butterfly Effect: Small Causes, Large Effects**

The Butterfly Effect, a concept from chaos theory, suggests that small actions can lead to disproportionately large consequences. A butterfly flapping its wings in one part of the world might trigger a chain of events leading to a storm elsewhere. Similarly, human activities—such as deforestation or overfishing—create cascading effects on climate patterns, ocean currents, and biodiversity.

Consider plastic pollution in oceans. A discarded plastic bottle might harm plankton, which are the foundation of the marine food chain. This, in turn, impacts fish populations, marine predators, and ultimately human livelihoods dependent on fishing industries. The seemingly trivial act of littering demonstrates how interconnected actions are, reinforcing the idea that the well-being of one life form is inseparable from the health of others.

### **Ecological Interconnectedness: The Web of Life**

Ecology, the scientific study of interactions among organisms and their environment, emphasizes the dynamic relationships between biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components. These interactions are crucial for maintaining ecological balance and the sustainability of life on Earth.

#### **Key Insights:**

- **Ecosystem Dynamics:** Ecosystems consist of complex food chains and networks where energy and nutrients cycle through various trophic levels. The removal or decline of a single species can disrupt these networks, leading to cascading effects throughout the ecosystem.
- **Biotic-Abiotic Interactions:** Non-living elements such as water, soil, and air play pivotal roles in supporting life. For instance, soil composition affects plant growth, which in turn influences herbivores and higher trophic levels.

Researchers have demonstrated that ecological balance is maintained through the interconnectedness of all components within an ecosystem. Disruptions in these interactions can lead to significant environmental consequences.

### **A Holistic Perspective on Life**

Parasparopagraho Jivanam serves as a timeless reminder of the balance needed for coexistence. Science and spirituality converge here: ecosystems are networks of cooperation and mutual support, not isolated entities. Humans, as part of this web, have a responsibility to act with awareness, minimizing harm and fostering harmony.

Complexity theory and the Butterfly Effect illustrate that even minor disruptions to nature can have



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far-reaching consequences, much like the Jain ethos warns against careless actions. By respecting and nurturing the interconnected web of life, humanity aligns with both ancient wisdom and modern science, fostering sustainability for future generations.

This principle inspires us to recognize the profound truth: life thrives not in isolation but in interconnectedness—a message ever more relevant in today’s fragile world.

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*Dr Bipin Doshi, MBBS, FCGP is a Jain philosopher and founder of Jain Chair at Mumbai University. He is author of renowned book “Gandhi before Gandhi” on life of Virchand Gandhi. Dr Doshi is Chairman of JAINA India Foundation, and he is a practicing physician, Borivali (W), Mumbai.*



### **Arihant Sharnam Program – A Compassionate Support System in Times of Loss**

The loss of a loved one is one of life’s most difficult and emotional experiences. In such moments of grief, families can feel overwhelmed—not only with sorrow, but with the many urgent responsibilities and logistics that follow.

In response to this need, JCNC has launched the Arihant Sharnam Program, a heartfelt initiative led by our Executive Committee and dedicated volunteers. This program is designed to offer a compassionate support system for families navigating the loss of a loved one.

#### ***Our trained volunteers will assist with:***

- Understanding and guiding families through Jain way of last rites and rituals
- Helping with Bhakti-Bhavna at the temple, if the family so chooses
- Providing emotional and logistical support like sending Parthiv Sharir to india during this vulnerable time

As a community rooted in Jain values of compassion, care, and seva (selfless service), we believe no family should go through this journey alone. Through this initiative, we aim to stand by one another with empathy and strength—helping ensure that sacred final rituals are carried out with dignity, clarity, and peace of mind.

Together, we can bring comfort where it is needed most, and uphold the spirit of community during life’s most delicate moments.

To avail this service, community can reach out to [pr@jcnc.org](mailto:pr@jcnc.org) .

## WHY ALTERNATE DAIRY?

**Lactose Intolerance:** Many people are unable to digest lactose, the sugar found in milk, leading to discomfort and digestive issues. Dairy alternatives like almond, soy, and oat milk provide a lactose-free option.

**Milk Allergies:** Some individuals have allergic reactions to proteins found in cow's milk. Plant-based alternatives can help avoid these allergic responses.

**Nutritional Value:** Plant-based milks are often fortified with essential nutrients like calcium, vitamin D, and B12, making them a nutritious choice.

## WHY WHOLE MULTIGRAIN BREAD?

Choosing whole multigrain bread offers several benefits that make it a smart choice for your diet and overall health.

### Nutritional Benefits

**High in Fiber:** Whole multigrain bread is rich in dietary fiber, which aids in digestion, helps maintain a healthy weight, and lowers the risk of chronic diseases.

**Low Glycemic Index:** Whole grains have a lower glycemic index compared to refined grains, leading to more stable blood sugar levels and sustained energy.

### Health Advantages

**Heart Health:** The fiber and nutrients in whole grains help reduce the risk of heart disease by lowering cholesterol levels and improving heart function.

**Digestive Health:** The high fiber content promotes healthy digestion and helps prevent constipation.

**Weight Management:** Whole grains can help you feel fuller for longer, which aids in weight management and reduces overeating.

### Versatility and Taste

**Variety of Grains:** Whole multigrain bread often includes a mix of grains like wheat, oats, barley, and flaxseed, adding variety and a rich, nutty flavor to your meals.

**Culinary Flexibility:** It can be used in a wide range of dishes, from sandwiches and toasts to bread puddings and stuffing, making it a versatile addition to your diet.

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## DINNER LECTURE SERIES

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## LIFESTYLE DISEASES

Lifestyle diseases are non-communicable diseases that arise due to poor diet and lifestyle. These diseases are often linked to unhealthy habits, lack of physical activity, poor diet, and stress.

### Common Lifestyle Diseases

- Heart Disease:
- Type 2 Diabetes:
- Obesity
- Hypertension
- Stroke:
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD):
- Cancer:
- Atherosclerosis
- Liver Disease
- Osteoporosis

These diseases are becoming increasingly common due to modern lifestyle choices and can have significant impacts on health and well-being. Adopting a healthier lifestyle can help prevent and manage these conditions.

## WHY CHOOSE A PLANT BASED WHOLE FOODS DIET?

Choosing a plant-based whole foods diet offers numerous benefits for our health and well-being. This diet is rich in essential vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants, promoting overall health and reducing the risk of chronic diseases. Whole plant foods are naturally low in calories and high in fiber, aiding weight management and helping you feel full and satisfied. Historically, humans have been plant eaters, and our bodies thrive on a plant-based diet. This diet encourages the exploration of diverse fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes, adding variety and excitement to meals. Embrace a plant-based diet for a healthier, more ethical lifestyle.

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### Bakery Products

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### Condiments & Spreads

Cashew Mustard Spread

## WHY GREEN JUICE ?

Green juice is a fantastic addition to your diet for several reasons. It's packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants from leafy greens and vegetables, providing essential nutrients for overall health. The high chlorophyll content helps detoxify your body and supports liver function. Additionally, green juice keeps you hydrated and can boost your energy levels due to its dense concentration of nutrients and natural enzymes. It also strengthens your immune system, helping you fight off illnesses. Incorporating green juice into your daily routine can enhance your health and well-being, making it a delicious and nutritious choice.

## WHY NATURALLY SWEETENED BEVERAGES?

Naturally sweetened beverages offer several advantages over those sweetened with refined sugars or artificial sweeteners. Firstly, they are made with natural sweeteners like honey, maple syrup, agave nectar, or fruit juice, which often contain beneficial nutrients and antioxidants. These natural sweeteners can enhance the flavor of beverages without the negative health effects associated with refined sugars.

Moreover, naturally sweetened beverages are less likely to cause rapid spikes in blood sugar levels, making them a healthier option for maintaining stable energy levels and avoiding sugar crashes. They also tend to have fewer artificial additives and chemicals, contributing to a cleaner and more wholesome drink.

Choosing naturally sweetened beverages aligns with a healthier lifestyle, supporting overall well-being and making it easier to avoid the health risks linked to excessive sugar consumption.

*This page is sponsored by Raj and Pallavi Shah.*

# Observing Ahimsa in Daily Life

*By Kaishal Dalal, JCNC life member*



## **Cultivating Compassion and Mindfulness**

Ahimsa, the principle of non-violence, is a profound philosophy rooted in ancient traditions, notably within Jainism, Buddhism and Hinduism. Observing Ahimsa in daily life involves cultivating compassion and mindfulness in your thoughts, actions, and choices. This practice encourages a harmonious existence with oneself and others, fostering peace and understanding in our interactions.

## **Understanding Ahimsa**

Ahimsa is more than just the avoidance of physical violence; it encompasses a broader spectrum of non-harm towards all living beings, including oneself. At its essence, Ahimsa is about making conscious decisions that promote kindness and prevent harm, whether through words, thoughts, or deeds.

## **Practical Steps to Observe Ahimsa**

Implementing Ahimsa into daily life requires intention and practice. Here are some practical steps to guide you:

### **1. Mindful Communication**

One of the most effective ways to observe Ahimsa is through mindful communication. This involves speaking with kindness, avoiding harmful language, and being aware of the impact of your words on others. Practice listening actively and empathetically, ensuring that your conversations contribute positively to the well-being of those around you.

### **2. Compassionate Choices**

Make choices that reflect compassion and non-violence. This can include adopting a plant-based diet, supporting ethical and cruelty-free products, and prioritizing sustainable living. Consider extending compassion to nature by planting trees. Each decision, from what you eat to the products you purchase, can reflect your commitment to Ahimsa. It aligns closely with minimizing harm to animals and the environment.

### **3. Self-Care and Self-Love**

Observing Ahimsa also involves caring for yourself. Engage in self-care practices that nurture your physical, mental, and emotional health. Avoid self-critical thoughts and behaviors that harm your well-being. Treat yourself with the same kindness and compassion you extend to others.

### **4. Mindful Consumption**

Be mindful of your consumption patterns. Reduce waste, recycle, and choose environmentally friendly options. By minimizing your ecological footprint, you contribute to the well-being of the planet and all its inhabitants.

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### **5. Non-Violent Actions**

Incorporate non-violent actions into your daily life. This includes resolving conflicts peacefully, practicing patience, and avoiding aggressive behaviors. Strive to create an environment of peace and understanding, both at home and in your community.

### **6. Kindness in Thoughts**

Cultivate positive and kind thoughts. Be aware of negative thinking patterns and replace them with affirmations and constructive reflections. This mental practice helps in creating a compassionate mindset that aligns with the principles of Ahimsa.

### **7. Forgive and Let Go**

Forgiveness promotes inner peace and prevents harm caused by anger or resentment. Forgiveness can rebuild trust and harmony in relationships. When you forgive, you often step into the other person's perspective, cultivating empathy. This understanding is central to Ahimsa, as it encourages kindness and reduces feelings of animosity. Let go of grudges or negative emotions toward others.

### **8. Community Engagement**

Participate in community activities that promote non-violence and compassion. Volunteer for organizations that support humane causes, engage in social activism for peace, and connect with like-minded individuals who share your values.

### **9. Reflective Practice**

Set aside time for reflective practice. Meditation, journaling, and mindfulness exercises can help you stay grounded in the principles of Ahimsa. Reflect on your daily actions and thoughts, identifying areas where you can improve and deepen your commitment to non-violence.

### **Adapting Ahimsa to Your Lifestyle**

Each of these steps can be adapted to fit your lifestyle and values. Whether you are drawn to mindful communication, compassionate choices, or self-care, there's an aspect of Ahimsa that resonates with everyone. Explore the principles that align with your personal beliefs and circumstances, integrating them into your daily routine.

### **Conclusion**

Observing Ahimsa in daily life is a transformative journey that nurtures compassion and mindfulness. By consciously choosing non-violence in your thoughts, actions, and choices, you contribute to a more peaceful and harmonious world. Embrace the practice of Ahimsa, and let it guide you towards a life of kindness, understanding, and profound respect for all living beings.





With best wishes  
for the

*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
of  
JCNC



MULTANI FAMILY



## A Transformative Year for JCNC Pathshala

*Nayan Jain, Ex-VP of JCNC Education/Pathshala, 2021-2022*



The year 2022 was truly transformative for JCNC Pathshala. JCNC has been running Pathshala programs for over 20 years. During the COVID-19 lockdown, as our center was shut down, our education team quickly adapted to online learning through Zoom, finding creative ways to keep students connected to Jain values. As the world began returning to in-person life, we also started thinking: how can we not only resume but reimagine our Pathshala?

I joined the JCNC education team as an EC member during those challenging COVID years. Through that experience, I learned about our pathshala and how deeply committed our parents, students and volunteers are—and how much more we could do to strengthen our programs. The return to in-person gave us a rare chance to make bold, lasting changes for the better.

While most changes in life are gradual, every once in a while, something truly transformational happens. That's exactly what we experienced at JCNC in 2022. Before sharing the changes we made, let me first give you an overview of our Pathshala and how it is structured.

### **About JCNC Pathshala & Programs:**

JCNC Pathshala is one of the largest Jain Pathshala in the U.S., serving over 650 unique students each year. It is led by a dedicated team of teachers, coordinators, and volunteers, and offers a wide range of programs for children and families.

The main focus is the Jain Pathshala, which provides classes based on JAINA's English curriculum for students from preschool through high school. Classes are grouped into three batches—Senior, Junior, and Preschool Jain Pathshala classes—and are held on Sundays, following the school grade of each child. This keeps children of similar ages learning together. There are currently 500+ students enrolled, and the number continues to grow.

In addition to Pathshala, JCNC offers a range of educational programs, including Jain Sutra, Bhaktamar, and JAB classes; Hindi and Gujarati language instruction; Jain music (bhajan) classes; and SAT prep for high school students. These programs serve over 500+ students and are held on weekdays, weekends, or Pathshala Sundays. The JCNC Library also supports learning with a wide collection of Jain books, open on Sundays and during major events.

JCNC Pathshala hosts several key events throughout the year that support learning, community, and fun. The Jain Assembly, held on Pathshala Sundays, brings together students, teachers, and parents for prayers, announcements, and celebrations. Major annual events include Graduation and Teacher Appreciation, where students receive certificates and teachers are honored, and Mahavir Janma Kalyanak (MJK), where students perform skits, dances, and songs. The Jiv Daya Trip teaches compassion through hands-on experiences with animals, while the Library Reading Challenge encourages students to read Jain books and take part in a quiz. Language Days celebrate Hindi and



Gujarati learning through student performances. Younger students enjoy a Day Camp, and older ones attend a Sleepover filled with games, crafts, and bhakti. The year starts with Registration and Orientation, and teachers prepare through an annual Training Workshop to ensure quality learning for all.



JCNC Pathshala is led by the VP and Co-VP of Education and supported by 20+ coordinators who manage planning, communication, and daily operations. Over 80 teachers and substitutes lead classes, while event leads handle major programs like Mahavir Janma Kalyanak. The youth-led Assembly Team runs Sunday sessions, and the Library Team manages resources on weekends. A BOD Education Committee oversees long-term planning. Over 100 adult and student volunteers support events, tech, facilities, food, and earn PVSA hours through their contributions.

This organized and collaborative structure ensures that all JCNC Pathshala programs run smoothly, allowing us to offer high-quality education and experiences to every student.

**The Pathshala Transformation:** In 2022, JCNC Pathshala had a unique opportunity to make major improvements and strengthen student engagement. Here are some of the key changes and new initiatives we introduced:

**1. Return to In-Person Pathshala:** Bringing students back after two years of virtual learning (due to Covid-19) was a major milestone. We started with Grades 3–7 (senior students) and introduced a hybrid model—offering both in-person and online options so families could choose what worked best. About 80% of senior students returned in person. Thanks to the hard work of coordinators, teachers, volunteers, and parents, the transition was a great success.



**2. New Pathshala Calendar:** Previously, classes were held every other Sunday, with seniors and juniors alternating weeks. This sometimes led to long breaks between sessions. In 2022, we introduced a custom calendar with Pathshala on most Sundays, while still observing breaks on long weekends and major temple events. This allowed us to offer 22+ sessions annually and maintain continuous engagement.

**3. Multiple Batches on Sundays:** With in-person classes returning and enrollment rising to 375+, we needed more space. We introduced a multi-batch system to run multiple sessions each Sunday (e.g., 10–11 AM for seniors, 11–12 PM for juniors). This helped manage classroom capacity, dining, and parking. The model received great feedback from families, especially those with children in different batches. As enrollment grew to 650+, this model enabled expansion to four batches per day.

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4. **Pathshala Assembly:** To bring everyone together and start the day as one, we introduced a Sunday Pathshala Assembly—just like morning assemblies in schools in the U.S. or India. Everyone — students, teachers, coordinators, and parents—gathered in the auditorium to recite the Navkar Mantra, celebrate birthdays and festivals, recognize volunteers, share announcements, and honor Tapasvis. It created a strong sense of unity and purpose.



5. **JCNC Pathshala T-Shirts:** We launched custom-designed t-shirts for over 500 Pathshala students (ages 3–15). Each shirt featured JCNC branding and a Jain message, designed carefully to reflect Jain values. The t-shirts created a sense of belonging and were loved by students, parents, and teachers alike.



6. **Reading Challenge Program:** To promote reading, we introduced a Jain Reading Challenge similar to public library programs. Over 120 students signed up to read English Jain story books about monks, kings, and Jain values. We included Kahoot quizzes and prizes to make it fun and rewarding. Parents were thrilled to see their children reading at the temple.



7. **JCNC Library Reopening:** After being closed for over two years during COVID, the JCNC Library was reopened. Volunteers helped clean, reorganize, and set up a simple checkout system—with no late fees or time limits—to make reading more accessible. The library is now open every Pathshala Sunday and has become a favorite spot for students and parents to explore Jain books.



8. **Launch of JAB and PVSA Programs:** We officially brought the Jain Academic Bowl (JAB) and Presidential Volunteer Service Awards (PVSA) programs under the Education Committee (EC). JAB is a competitive Jain quiz program at the JAINA Convention, and with EC support, we saw 35 students join. PVSA, a popular program for high schoolers, rewards volunteer hours with recognition from the President of the United States. Both programs are now well-structured and have received strong community participation.



9. **Language Day Celebrations:** We introduced Bhasha Divas for Hindi and Gujarati students to showcase what they learned. Students presented poems, essays, and other performances related to their language and culture. This program continues to be well received.



May the teachings of our tirthankaras continue to be a guiding force for all around us.

Jain Society of San Diego  
extends wishes of joy & gratitude on this  
auspicious occasion of  
**JCNC's 25th Anniversary!**

Anumodna to the sangh that enabled a beautiful extension of Jainism to this world, by way of a state-of-the-art, magnificent temple & their selfless service over a quarter of a century!

We wish you well.

*Jai Jinendra!*

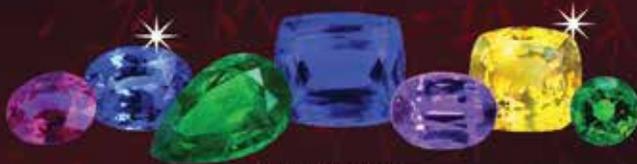
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**10. Participation in Chha Gau Yatra:** Pathshala students actively participated in the Chha Gau Yatra, performing Chaityavandan in front of the temple. This helped them connect deeply with the spiritual aspect of the yatra and become more involved in religious events.



**11. Expanded English Book Collection:** As more children and parents prefer reading in English, we expanded our Jain book collection with titles sourced from Indian publishers, Amazon, eBay, and even out-of-print collections. A book exhibition showcased these new additions, and we received generous sponsorships to continue growing our library.

**12. Weekdays Online Sutra Classes:** Previously, our sutra classes were held in person every two weeks and had low attendance. To improve participation and consistency, we moved sutra classes online and made them weekday evenings (Monday to Thursday). This made it easier for students to attend and helped them retain what they learned. Many students now confidently recite sutras in various temple events.

**13. US Born Youth Engagement:** We focused on involving the U.S.-born youth in our education team and programs. Many middle and high school students volunteered at Pathshala, and we partnered with the Berkeley Jain Students Association to further strengthen college-level engagement. The PVSA program also encouraged more youth participation.

**14. Sutra Book correction:** We discovered that one of the JAINA Sutra books had an incorrect version of a Jain Pratikraman Sutra that is over 800 years old and should not be changed by any layperson. A review committee consulted scholars, Maharaj Sahebs in India, and the JAINA team. Based on their guidance, we decided— with EC approval— to stop using the incorrect book and instead teach from an accurate sutra book. This reflects our commitment to teaching the correct Jain principles with care and responsibility.

**15. Policy and Process Documentation:** With so many new changes, we created detailed guidelines and policies to help standardize operations. Roles for coordinators, event planning, and general Pathshala procedures were documented to ensure consistency and make it easier for future volunteers and leaders.

These new initiatives helped JCNC Pathshala grow stronger, more inclusive, and more engaging. The energy, commitment, and teamwork shown by everyone involved—students, parents, teachers, volunteers, and EC members—made 2022 a truly transformative year. The next pathshala team have continued these programs and introduced further new ideas. We are proud of how far we've come and excited for the continued growth ahead.

To the future leaders, If you're reading this article in the future, here's my advice: Believe in yourself. Always reflect on what's truly right for the community—not just what feels right to you personally. Be bold. Aim for meaningful, transformative change, and commit yourself fully to making it succeed. With courage, clarity, and hard work, you'll leave a lasting impact.



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As I reflect on the year, I feel proud and grateful. JCNC Pathshala is more than just classes—it's a place where our children learn, grow, and build lifelong values. The joy and energy we see at the temple on Sundays remind us why this work matters.

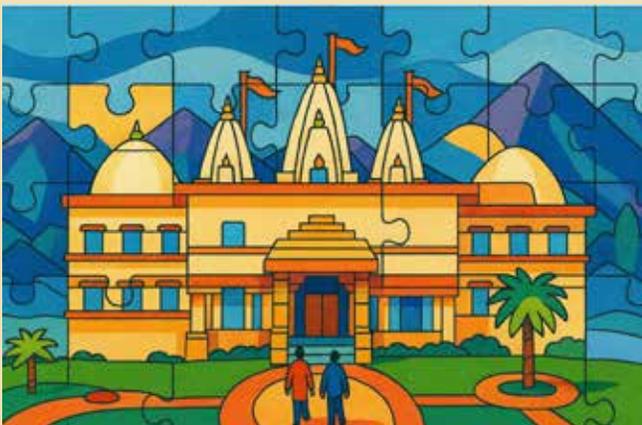
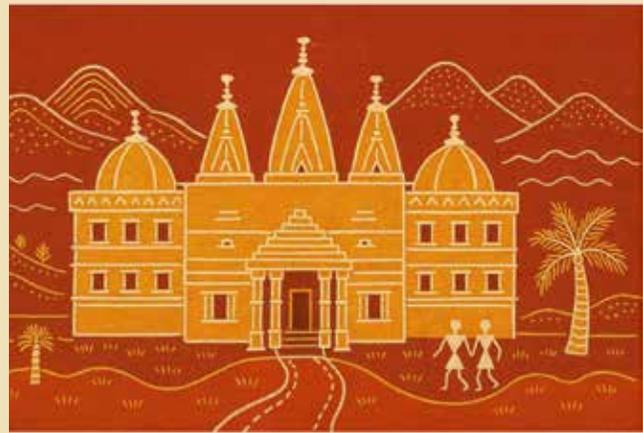
This progress would not have been possible without the incredible support of our presidents, EC and BOD members, Pathshala coordinators, teachers, volunteers, parents, and the entire JCNC community. It truly takes a village, and we are lucky to have such a dedicated one.

I'm reminded of a beautiful message from Acharya Ratnasundar Maharaj Sahebji about the five F's: Faith, Family, Friends, Field, and Future. Through JCNC Pathshala, I've experienced all five—faith in Jainism, support from my family, friendships in the community, meaningful service in the field of education, and hope for a bright future.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to seeing JCNC Pathshala continue to thrive and inspire future generations to live with knowledge, compassion, and Jain values.

“Nanassa saram ayara — Right conduct is the essence of knowledge.” — Ācāranga Sūtra. This ancient Jain principle reminds us that knowledge alone is not enough—what truly matters is how we live it.

May the seeds of learning planted at JCNC Pathshala lead to a life rooted in right faith, right knowledge, and right conduct.



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# Jainism and Veganism: What Now?

*Jonathan Dickstein, PhD*



As an outsider to Jainism, I find the evolving discourse on veganism within the tradition particularly intriguing. Over the years, I have observed how Jains articulate and respond to arguments regarding veganism and dairy consumption. In this reflection, I treat the “vegan question” and the “dairy question” as essentially one and the same, as dairy remains the central point of contention. Notably, these discussions tend to unfold within two key epistemic arenas: scripture and nutritional science.

## Scripture and Science

One might expect a straightforward clash between, on the one hand, traditionalist Jains who support dairy based on the infallible authority of scripture and, on the other hand, modernist Jains who reject dairy based on secular scientific and philosophical reasoning. However, the landscape of “Jain Modernism” is more complex. In this debate, both sides engage in what can be described as the scientization of scripture and the scripturization of science. The scientization of scripture refers to the reinterpretation of premodern Jain teachings as inherently “scientific,” aligning ancient doctrines with contemporary empirical knowledge in a forward-looking, adaptive process. Conversely, the scripturization of science involves validating scientific discoveries by demonstrating their congruence—however loosely—with Jain scriptural claims, representing a backward-looking, revisionist approach. A superficial example of this dual process is the modern rendering of *nigoda* (one-sensed microflora asserted by Jain cosmology) as “microbes” or “bacteria.” This reinterpretation not only updates scriptural understanding but also reinforces the legitimacy of scientific concepts through Jain textual tradition.

In the context of veganism, dairy proponents argue that Jain scriptures endorse dairy for both ritual and nutritional purposes. In addition, milk products are conspicuously absent from the Jain *abhakṣyas* (forbidden foods). They also invoke science, emphasizing the nutritional benefits of dairy and its role in maintaining good health—another facet of “being Jain.” Conversely, opponents have less success (but still some) leaning on scriptural guidelines and traditional precedent. They tend to invoke scripture more generally, appealing to the foundational Jain principle of *ahimsā*. Scientifically, they highlight the negative health effects of dairy and widespread lactose intolerance (“lactose normalcy”). Dairy opponents may also cite the “science” detailing the *environmental costs of dairy compared to plant-based milks* and the global proliferation of affordable and accessible alternatives.

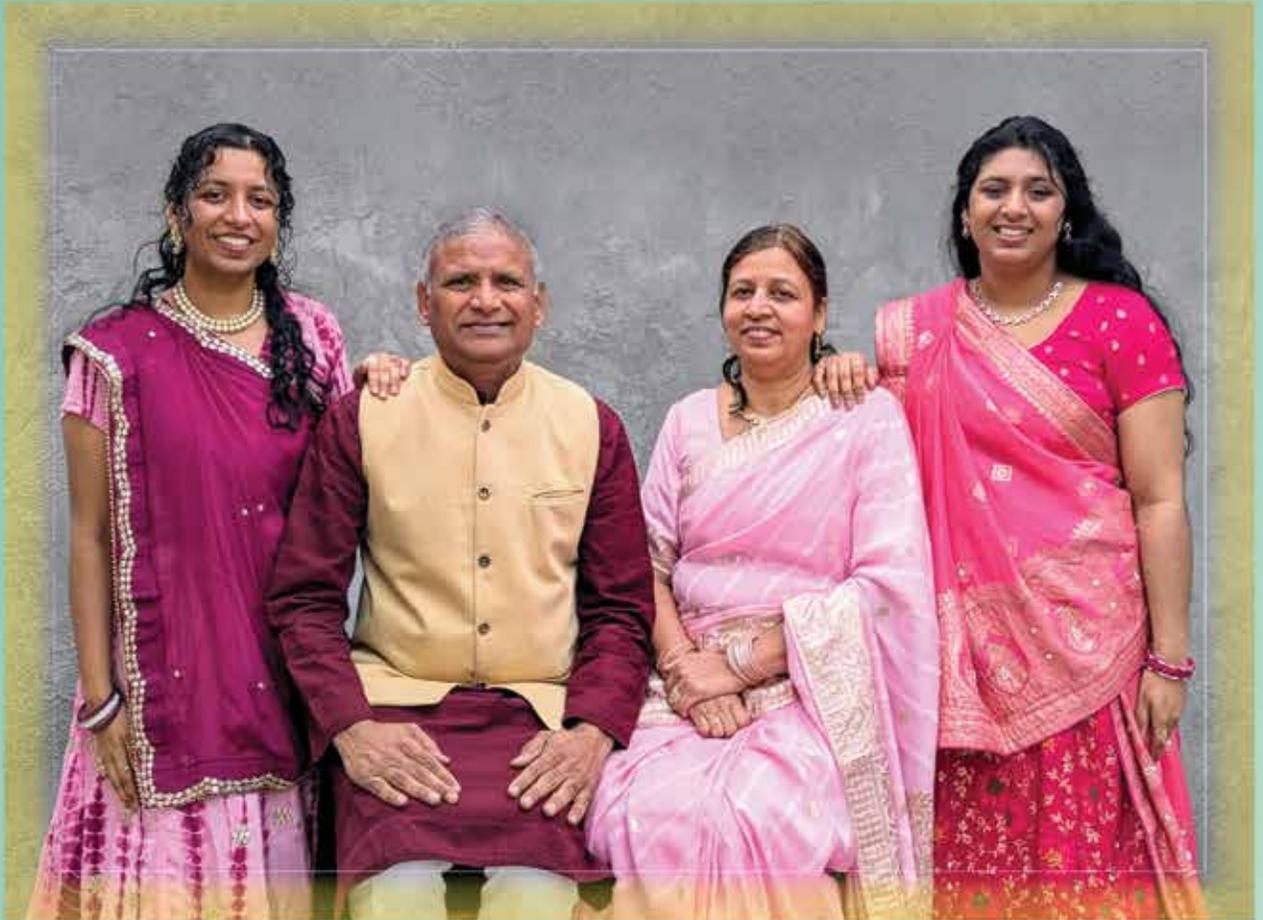
I identify these two discursive appeals—scripture and nutritional science—to make a controversial claim: neither make a convincing argument for or against veganism.

## The Limitations of Scripture and Nutritional Science

Scripture can, and oftentimes is, used to make arguments for both sides of an issue. The case for or against a vegan Jainism is no exception, as its canonical texts lack any decisive stance. Additionally, strict adherence to textual literalism is at odds with a dynamic, engaged Jainism that values scientific, philosophical, and historical integrity. Furthermore, research suggests that younger generations—both

**JCNC** के प्रभु मंदिर की **25** वीं वर्षगांठ के उत्सव पर **JCNC** प्रभु और मंदिर को लुणावत परिवार का सादर वन्दन। **JCNC** प्रभु मंदिर की पवित्र गरिमा, संगीतमय मधुर तरंग और, अजय अमर आशीर्वाद सकल संघ को मिलता रहे। सभी को शुभकामनाएं और बहुत-बहुत बधाई।

**On the joyous occasion of JCNC temple's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our respectful bow to Arihant bhagavan. May the virtues of this sangh continue to inspire all generations. Wishing the best to the whole JCNC family.**



**- Ajay, Sangita, Garima, & Tarang Lunawat**

Jain and non-Jain—are increasingly unmoved by religious dogmatism.

However, nutritional science alone will not sufficiently rebut pro-dairy perspectives. In my view, nutrition-based arguments against dairy represent the weakest case for a vegan Jainism (though I do not deny their practical efficacy). While dairy may have adverse health effects for some individuals, it is entirely possible to live a physically healthy life without excluding the consumption of all animal products. In certain contexts, consuming animal-derived foods may even be preferable for nutritional, economic, or practical reasons. Any argument—Jain or non-Jain—for the viability or even superiority of a vegan diet is not equivalent to an argument against the healthfulness of a nonvegan diet.

### **Roots and Reformulation**

Historically, Jain vegetarianism has not relied on scriptural mandates or claims of nutritional superiority for its stance against meat consumption. Rather, arguments for vegetarianism are commonly rooted in the ethical principle of *ahiṃsā*—the avoidance of harm. The philosophical and practical links between *ahiṃsā* and vegetarianism are so deeply embedded in Jainism that discussing one almost inevitably invokes the other. Hence, from my perspective, what makes veganism relevant to contemporary Jainism is not new hermeneutical or scientific revelations, but rather a novel ethical development: Contemporary vegan Jainism presents a more expansive and sophisticated understanding of harm and *hiṃsā*, particularly in its analysis of dairy.

The dominant vegan Jain argument is not that using animals for dairy *used* to be nonharmful and *used* to be nonlethal, and it is modernity and industrialization that have since led us astray. Rather, *Contemporary Vegan Jainism* asserts that dairy extraction is inherently harmful to domesticated mammals, even in premodern contexts, regardless of how it is procured. And while extracting and consuming dairy may be necessary for human survival in extraordinary circumstances, the argument from necessity only mitigates the moral culpability of the act of inflicting harm on animals for food—it does not erase the harm itself. In the absence of necessity, in dairy there is both harm and, technically speaking, *hiṃsā*.

### **A Scriptural Counterargument**

An overarching objection from traditional Jainism might be: “If dairy production and consumption violates *ahiṃsā*, then why didn’t Mahāvīra explicitly prohibit milk, ghee, and curds?” Or more pointedly: “How can we, flawed and fallible as we are, claim to know better than an omniscient Tīrthaṅkara?”

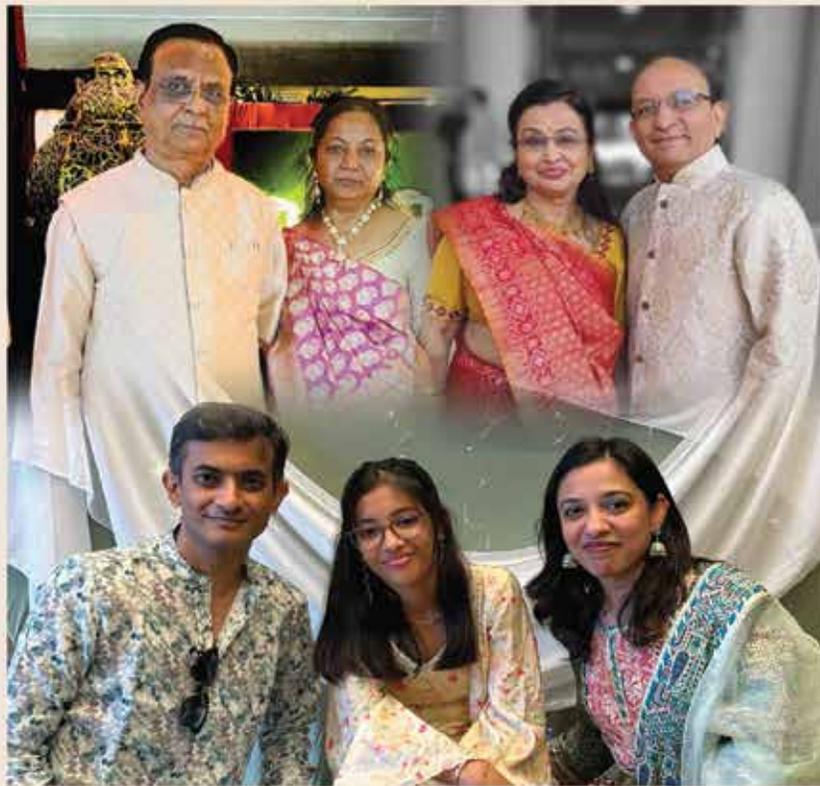
This question returns us to the fundamental issue of textual literalism and its role in contemporary Jainism. Is *ahiṃsā* a living ethical principle that evolves in response to contemporary realities, such as an awakening to the inherent harmfulness of dairy production and the massive environmental impacts of industrial animal farming? Or is it confined to the literal injunctions recorded over two thousand years ago? *If* one accepts the former—and this remains an open question—then the ethical imperative for transitioning from vegetarianism to veganism becomes not only legitimate but compelling.

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*Professor Jonathan Dickstein, PhD and faculty at Arihanta Institute specializes in South Asian Religions, Religion and Ecology, and Comparative Religious Ethics. Jonathan focuses on Jainism and contemporary ecological issues, and accordingly extends into Critical Animal Studies, Food Studies, and Diaspora Studies.*

Best wishes for the grand success of  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of

*Jain Center of Northern  
California*



Rekhaben & Arunbhai Shah  
Hemaben & Hemantbhai  
Shah Hisha, Nikita & Jenish

# How Jainism Changes the World

*By Amar Salgia, co-founder of Young Jains of America*



**Imagine the future.**

Tomorrow, what if all the Jains were to magically disappear from the earth? Now imagine 200 years later, long after we're gone, what historians might say about us. Would they say that the Jains were...

- ...not very influential or important?
- ...too extreme for the average person?
- ...an obscure sect of Hinduism or Buddhism?
- ...a religion that died out because they refused to eat meat?
- ...a religion that died out because they didn't believe in having kids?
- ...a religion that didn't accomplish much, other than books and temples?
- ...a people who never existed?

If not us, and if not the Jains themselves, who would tell the story of Jainism? What would they say? How would they say it?

For that matter, what is the story of Jainism? The real story is based on the full body of facts and evidence. Other religions have a story to tell about who they are and why they are here. They have a narrative that motivates them to live and act in certain ways. What is your story? What is our story?

Have a look at the following statements. Imagine if you had heard these words from someone. Could you believe them yourself?

- "Jainism is the oldest living religion. Jainism has changed the world. No part of the world has been unaffected by Jainism. Its ancient teachings have been affirmed by modern science in ways that would shock and surprise you."
- "Jains have been great innovators, freedom fighters, scientists, industrialists, artists, kings, queens, soldiers, scholars, saints, and activists who advanced civilization and earned the respect and admiration of all."
- "Jain saints are the first and last stronghold of pure holiness and divinity on earth. Deviant forces have tried to suppress or destroy Jainism, but Jainism is the ultimate survivor."

Do these words sound bold? Can they be backed up and defended? Can they be proven? Should they be?

In our Jain communities and societies, we learn about the great principles of Jainism. How

સત્પુરુષનું યોગબળ જગતનું કલ્યાણ કરો.

દુર્લભ એવો મનુષ્ય દેહ પૂર્વે અનંતવાર પ્રાપ્ત થયાં છતાં કઈપણ સફળપણું થયું નહીં પણ આ મનુષ્યદેહને કૃતાર્થતા છે, કે જે મનુષ્યદેહે આ જીવે જ્ઞાની પુરુષને ઓળખ્યા, તથા તે મહાભાગ્યનો આશ્રય કર્યો, જે પુરુષના આશ્રયે અનેક પ્રકારના મિથ્યા આગ્રહાદિની મંદતા થઈ, તે પુરુષને આશ્રયે આ દેહ છૂટે એ જ સાર્થક છે. જન્મજરામરણાદિને નાશ કરવાવાળું આત્મજ્ઞાન જેમને વિષે વર્તે છે, તે પુરુષનો આશ્રય જ જીવને જન્મજરામરણાદિનો નાશ

કરી શકે, કેમકે તે યથાસંભવ ઉપાય છે. સંયોગ સંબંધે આ દેહ પ્રત્યે આ જીવને જે પ્રારબ્ધ હશે તે વ્યતીત થયે તે દેહનો પ્રસંગ નિવૃત્ત થશે. તેનો ગમેત્યારે વિયોગ નિશ્ચયે છે, પણ આશ્રયપૂર્વક દેહ છૂટે એ જ જન્મ સાર્થક છે, કે જે આશ્રયને પામીને જીવ તે ભવે અથવા ભાવિ એવા થોડા કાળે પણ સ્વસ્વરૂપમાં સ્થિતિ કરે. શ્રી સદ્ગુરુએ કહ્યો છે એવા નિર્ગથમાર્ગનો સદાય આશ્રય રહો. હું દેહાદિ સ્વરૂપ નથી, અને દેહ સ્ત્રી પુત્રાદિ કોઈપણ મારાં નથી, શુદ્ધ ચૈતન્યસ્વરૂપ અવિનાશી એવો હું આત્મા છું, એમ આત્મભાવના કરતાં રાગદ્વેષનો ક્ષય થાય.

શ્રીમદ્ રાજચંદ્ર

વચનામૃત-પત્રાંક ૬૯૨)

Our heartiest Congratulations to JCNC on it's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary who has given a lot to us and to the community at large, spiritually and socially.

Late Ramanbhai Bhulabhai Patel and Family: Manjulaben, Pramod, Roshni, Jeenali, Rahil and Agna- San Carlos, CA.

many of us know about the history of Jainism and its influence upon the world? Do you wish you knew more? And, if you did know your place in the world, would it change anything?

I believe it would change everything. In fact, Jainism did change the world, and today no corner of the world is without the influence of the Jains.

Many of us are not accustomed to thinking in this way. How can such big words be spoken? In fact, solid research on these subjects has been documented in a fascinating presentation called "HOW JAINISM CHANGES THE WORLD". What is the story of Jainism? JAINISM IS:

- ...the heart and soul of Indian Civilization
- ...the mother religion of Buddhism and Yoga philosophy
- ...the inspiration for many sages and great thinkers throughout time
- ...the ascetic spirit of the Greeks, Jesus Christ, and early Christians
- ...the first and most successful advocate for animal protection
- ...the fountain of creativity and spirituality
- ...the pioneer of the arts
- ...the survivor in the face of persecution
- ...the upliftment of humanity and all living beings
- ...the nursery of heroes, freedom fighters, and innovators
- ...the incubator of literary and technological achievements
- ...the spiritual and historical origin of nonviolent activism
- ...the most copied and emulated tradition in the world
- ...the oldest living religion of mankind

Who dares say these things? Certainly not the academics or the sectarians who create divisions between people. Why have we never heard of such things? Why speak of Jainism's greatness at all? Is it not egotistical to do so?

History does matter. It matters a great deal. How humanity talks about the past, and how the present came from it, can determine whether there is war or peace, freedom or oppression, justice or injustice, prosperity or poverty, serenity or insanity. Whether you realize it or not, it is your understanding of the past - your past, your ancestors' past, and your religion's past - that will shape your future and the future of the world you create.

As you will see, Jainism did spread far outside of India. Jain influence reached every corner of the world. Our people and ideas impacted people in profound ways, and they did so not by oversimplifying Jainism or watering it down, but by practicing it boldly and leading by example.

*Congratulations & Best Wishes  
on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JCNC!*



*Rupesh & Gautami Jain  
Ujwal & Tvisha*



*Amit & Vanita Jain  
Aarushi & Vidushi  
Smt. Kamlesh Jain (Dadi) & Smt Kusum Jain (Nani)*

*Jai Jinendra*

*On this auspicious silver jubilee,  
we extend our warmest wishes to the  
entire JCNC Sangh.  
May this sacred temple continue to be  
a vibrant place of worship, learning,  
and connection for all.*

*With best compliments  
Santosh, Nisha, Anjali, Aarti Golecha*



Time waits for no one. Now it is our turn. Where to begin?

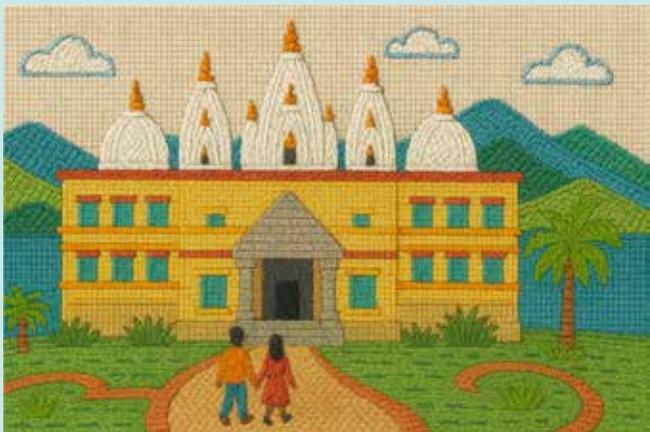
It starts in the imagination.

Imagine a world wherein every person of every background has an opportunity to attain Samyag Darshan – which is the first spiritual awakening and the first step on the path to Moksha – thus enabling everyone to grow into a force for good and a fortress of inner peace and self-control, which the rising tides of fear, division, confusion, temptation, and corruption in the world can never stop, never overwhelm, and never defeat!

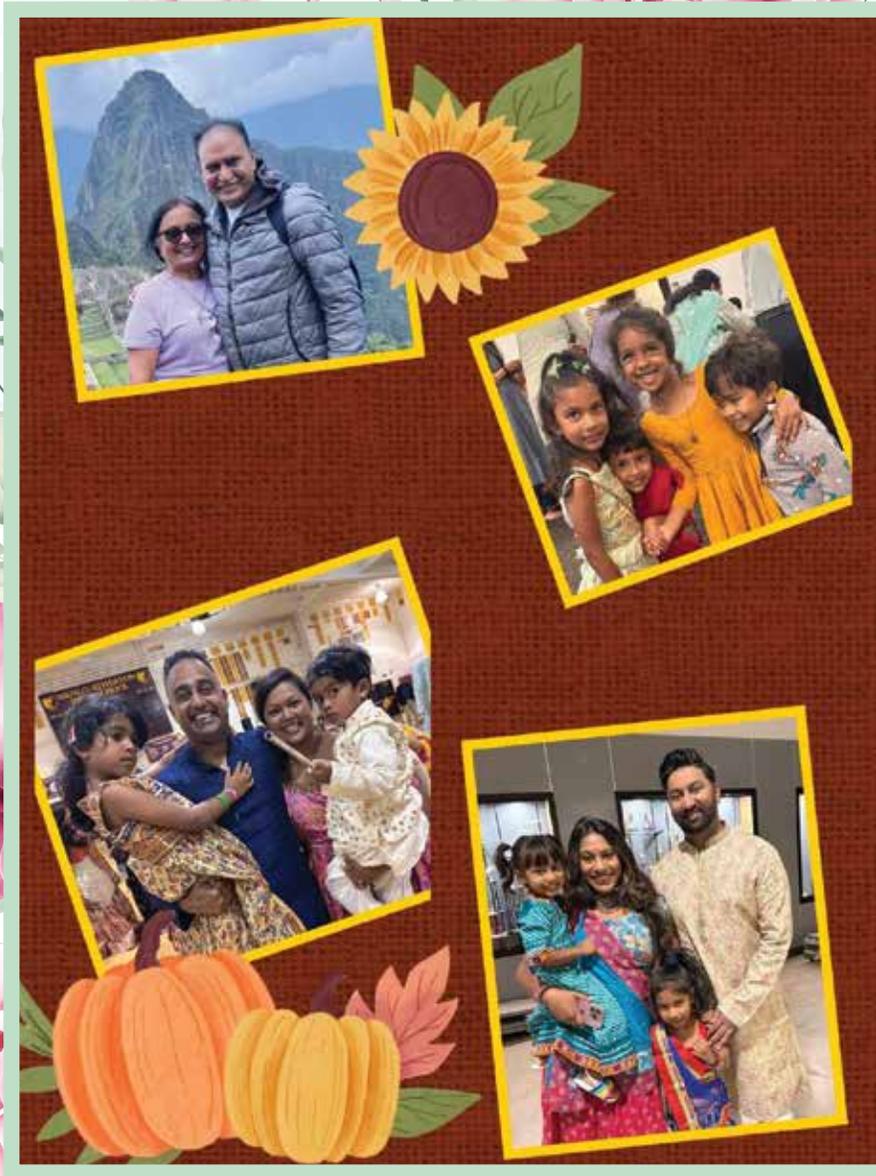
That is the mission. Are you inspired? Good! You are on your way to endless and exciting possibilities.

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*Young Jains of America (YJA) is an entity of JAINA and it serves Jain youth from ages 14-29 years.*



On the occasion of the  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JCNC wishing everyone  
*Congratulations & Best Wishes*



FOCUS ON THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JALPAIGURI

**Kalpana and Jagdish Shah**

# Jain Compassion and Nonviolence Toward Animals

*Christopher Jain Miller, PhD*



Compassion (*kāruṇya*) toward animals is a core value in Jainism, deeply rooted in the philosophy of nonharming/nonviolence, or *ahiṃsā*. The Jain tradition teaches that all living beings, whether human, animal, or plant, possess a soul and are part of a vast, interconnected web of life. This belief underscores the importance of extending compassion to all forms of life, promoting an ethical lifestyle based on nonharming.

In this article, I will explore the concept of *ahiṃsā* in Jainism, how it is conveyed in the story of Neminatha's compassion toward animals, and the practice of caring for animals in Jain communities through the establishment of panjrapoles and contemporary sanctuaries like Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary in Eerie, Colorado.

## **Ahiṃsā in the Jain Tradition**

At the heart of Jain philosophy lies the principle of *ahiṃsā*, which translates to nonviolence or nonharming. However, this goes beyond the simple avoidance of physical violence; it extends to all forms of harm—whether through thought, speech, or action. Jainism teaches that every living being is a soul (*jīva*) on its journey through countless cycles of birth, death, and rebirth. As such, all beings, from humans to the smallest insect, are seen as deserving of respect, care, and compassion.

The doctrine of *ahiṃsā* is the cornerstone of Jain ethics and guides the behavior of adherents in all aspects of life. To live in accordance with *ahiṃsā*, Jains follow a strict vegetarian (and increasingly vegan) diet, avoid causing harm to animals, and take steps to minimize their impact on the environment. Jain monks and nuns, in particular, go to great lengths to ensure that they do not harm any living being. They wear masks to prevent accidentally inhaling insects, sweep the ground before walking to avoid stepping on small creatures, and practice careful mindfulness in all their actions.

Jains believe that violence, whether intentional or unintentional, leads to the accumulation of unmeritorious karma and delays spiritual liberation. Therefore, cultivating compassion and avoiding harm is essential for the purification of the soul. This commitment to nonviolence extends to all creatures, emphasizing that the ethical treatment of animals is a vital aspect of spiritual practice.

## **The Story of Neminatha and the Animals**

One of the most poignant stories illustrating Jain compassion toward animals comes from the *Uttarādhyaṇa-sūtra*, a sacred text in Jainism. The story concerns Neminatha, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Tirthankara, who is revered for his deep compassion and commitment to nonviolence.

As the story goes, Neminatha was on his way to his wedding, accompanied by a large procession. On the way, he passed an enclosure where many animals were being held captive for slaughter to be consumed in his wedding feast. The sound of these animals, in captivity and clearly suffering, deeply disturbed Neminatha.

Rather than proceeding with his wedding, Neminatha decided to act out of compassion. Instead of consuming them, he freed all the animals who were being held captive for the purpose of slaughter. By liberating them, Neminatha demonstrated not only his profound compassion, but also his commitment to the principle of *ahiṃsā*. The story serves as a vivid reminder of the Jain commitment to animal welfare, showing that true compassion requires action to alleviate suffering, regardless of

Sri Adinathay Namaha

Heartfelt Congratulations to the  
**Jain Center of Northern California**  
on its **25th Anniversary !**

May the next quarter century be filled with  
spiritual growth, community service and  
continued pursuit of Ahimsa and Compassion.



With Best Wishes

**Smt. Anita Shantilalji**  
**Dr. Anish - Tejal, Akshay - Shradha**  
**Aadi, Tirth, Aangi Pokarna Family, Hyderabad**



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the social or cultural norms of the time.

The story of Neminatha continues to inspire Jains to engage in compassionate acts toward animals, fostering a culture of care and protection.

### **Jain Panjrapoles: Traditional Animal Sanctuaries**

One of the most tangible expressions of Jain compassion toward animals is the establishment of panjrapoles, traditional animal shelters that have been a cornerstone of Jain charitable work for centuries.

Panjrapoles have a rich history in India, where Jains have long been known for their charitable works. These sanctuaries offer refuge to animals that have been abandoned, injured, or are otherwise in need of care. Animals such as cows from the dairy industry, donkeys, elephants, dogs, and birds are typically sheltered in these facilities. The care provided at panjrapoles is not merely about providing food and shelter; it also involves treating the animals with the same level of respect and compassion that Jains extend to fellow humans.

### **Luvn Arms: A Contemporary Animal Sanctuary**

In recent years, the Jain commitment to animal welfare has found a modern expression in the establishment of sanctuaries like Luvn Arms Animal Sanctuary, located in Erie, Colorado. Founded by a Jain family, Luvn Arms provides a safe haven for animals that have been rescued from abuse, neglect, or abandonment. This sanctuary is a contemporary example of the Jain principle of ahimsā in action, offering care to a wide variety of animals, including cows, pigs, chickens, and goats.

The sanctuary's work is a powerful reminder that Jain values of nonviolence and compassion are not confined to ancient texts or practices but are alive and relevant in today's world.

### **Conclusion**

In the Jain tradition, compassion toward animals is not just a moral ideal—it is a lived practice that permeates the daily lives of its followers. Through the core principle of ahimsā, the story of Neminatha's compassion for the animals, the tradition of panjrapoles, and the work of contemporary sanctuaries, Jains continue to uphold their timeless commitment to nonviolence and compassion toward all living beings. This rich tradition offers a profound example of how compassion can transcend time and place, creating a more just and harmonious world for all creatures.

The latest commitment to compassion and nonviolence in the Jain community is emerging in its transition away from the consumption of dairy, since dairy is connected with unfathomable and irreparable violence towards cows (this violence is rated worse than the meat industry itself). Groups such as Jain Vegans in the UK and the global Jain Vegan Initiative have taken the charge to educate the global Jain community on the harms of dairy so that they too may lead a life aligned with the Jain commitment to compassion toward animals.

To learn more about how you can better incorporate the Jain principles of nonviolence and compassion into our daily life, learn more at [arihantainstitute.org/vegan-studies](http://arihantainstitute.org/vegan-studies).

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*Christopher Jain Miller, PhD is the co-founder, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Professor of Jain and Yoga Studies at Arihanta Institute. He is a Visiting Researcher at the University of Zürich's Asien-Orient-Institut and Visiting Professor at Claremont School of Theology where he co-developed and co-runs a remotely available Master's Degree Program focusing on Engaged Jain Studies.*

!! श्री महावीराय नमः !!



आचार्य श्री भिक्षु

BEST WISHES TO JCNC  
ON THE  
25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

हे प्रभो! यह तेरा पंच



आचार्य श्री महाश्रमण

## BAYAREA TERAPANATH SAMAYIK GROUP



(L to R) Amit & Vinita Jain, Gautam & Bharati Mahnot, Mahesh & Pinky Jain, Sanjay & Sangeeta Badala, Avinash & Priyanka Jain, Sanjay & Praveena Sancheti, Kulwant & Savita Badala, Dipti & Sunny Shah & families

आचार्य श्री महाश्रमण जी की प्रेरणा से हमे हर शनिवार सायं 7 से 8 बजे  
सामायिक करने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हो रहा है।

# Celebrating a Milestone: Behind the Planning of JCNC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Committee

## A Vision Takes Root

In **August 2024**, the JCNC Board of Directors appointed a special committee to lead the planning of the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**—a once-in-a-generation event to honor our Pratishtha Mahotsav and 50 years of Jain community service in Northern California.

For some, this would be their **first grand JCNC event**. For others, it might be the last large celebration they witness. With that awareness, the committee felt a deep sense of responsibility - to create something meaningful, memorable, and spiritually enriching for all .

*“We knew this had to be more than a celebration—it had to be a reflection of who we are and what we stand for.”*

## Laying the Foundation: Building the Core Team

The planning began with forming a **core leadership team** that included:

- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Co-Chair, 2025 JCNC President
- 2025 VP of Religious, Ex-President of JCNC, Ex-VP of Education
- Ex-VP of Finance

Together, this team envisioned a **12-day celebration**, starting and ending with religious ceremonies and including:

- Daily religious events - Various pooja, poojan and abhishek, Bhakti Bhavana and Jain Musical Symphony
- Inspiring pravachans and spiritual activities
- Cultural performances and children's programs
- Guest Jain scholars and community leaders
- A special **Main Street Parade** to highlight Jain values, especially Ahimsa (non-violence)
- The **grand Dhwaja Ceremony** as a spiritual finale

## Budgeting with Purpose

With a large vision came a large responsibility. The initial plan estimated:

- **2,000+ attendees** during peak days
- **1,000+ attendees** on non-peak days
- **Meals served** across multiple days
- Hosting of dignitaries and guest speakers

## The Road Ahead: More Challenges, More Determination

Planning a celebration of this scale meant facing several additional challenges. The team responded with creativity, teamwork, and faith, driven by a shared commitment to the Sangh.

## Dilemma 1: Balancing Vision and Budget

While JCNC was simultaneously engaged in a major land acquisition project with an emphasis



!! श्री महावीराय नमः !!



आचार्य श्री महाप्रज्ञ

# BAYAREA PREKSHA DHYAN SHIVIR



**WISHES JCNC SANGH A PROUD SILVER  
JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

**25 GLORIOUS YEARS OF  
UNITY, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Meditation Retreat held on Memorial Day weekend  
under the auspicious guidance of  
Samani Aarjav Pragyaji and Samani Swati Pragyaji**



आचार्य श्री महाश्रमण

Scan for more details:



आचार्य श्री भिक्षु

on financial responsibility and avoiding external debt, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee had the important task of envisioning a memorable and meaningful celebration. The committee, in consultation with the finance team, initially presented a proposed budget that reflected the scale and scope of the event. Recognizing the need to prioritize regular operations and long-term commitments, the Board requested a more conservative budget approach.

In the spirit of collaboration, the committee thoughtfully revised its plans. After several rounds of discussion and planning, a revised budget proposal was approved by the Board in January 2025—striking a balance between community aspirations and fiscal prudence.

As planning progressed, additional programs were introduced, and evolving factors such as permit requirements, security needs, inflation, and rising material costs—driven in part by new government tariffs—began to impact the budget. By this time, the committee had already secured significant sponsorships, demonstrating strong community support. In acknowledgment of these efforts and the importance of delivering a high-quality celebration, the Board approved an additional budget in May to ensure that JCNC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary would be a truly memorable experience for all.

### **Dilemma 2: Booking the Right Venue**

Challenges included availability, cost, and suitability for large cultural and religious events. Finding the right venue for cultural programs, speaker sessions, and community gatherings was more challenging than expected. With limited large-scale venues available nearby—and many already booked months in advance—the team had to explore multiple options while balancing cost, capacity, and spiritual ambiance.

After many site visits and detailed negotiations, a suitable venue (Chabot College) was secured that could meet the needs of both our guests and programming, while keeping the event close to JCNC for convenience. As the venue for peak events changed from BAPS to Marriott to Chabot College, the budgeted costs increased. The Committee proposed the first increase to the approved budget. After a rigorous discussion the BoD approved an increased budget.

### **Dilemma 3: Sangh Prabhavna**

To mark JCNC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the committee envisioned a custom replica of the JCNC temple as a special prabhavna item for all members—a lasting keepsake of this milestone.

After months of design reviews and prototyping with a vendor in India, the team finalized a beautiful design. However, the journey was far from easy. There were unexpected delays due to monsoon rains, damaged shipments, customs issues, and billing complications.

Despite the challenges, the team stayed committed. With the help of volunteers, the prabhavna items were carefully received and prepared—offered to the Sangh with deep bhaav and gratitude. This effort reflected true seva and the spirit of unity and devotion behind the celebration.

### **Dilemma 4: Securing Speakers & Dignitaries**

Coordinating schedules of **Jain scholars, motivational speakers, and local government officials** required early outreach and careful planning. Inviting renowned Jain scholars, speakers, and government dignitaries was a key part of the vision. Coordinating schedules across different time zones and commitments took months of outreach, follow-ups, and flexibility. Visa issues were more challenging than expected and many renowned artists could not be confirmed due to rejections or delays with visa. The committee worked diligently to confirm names that would resonate with our Sangh—spiritual leaders who could enrich our understanding of dharma, and civic leaders who could honor the impact of JCNC in the broader Bay Area.

### **Dilemma 5: Organizing the Parade**

Managing a public parade required working with city authorities, permits, route safety, and participant coordination. Planning a Main Street Parade to highlight the principle of Ahimsa



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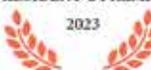
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required detailed coordination with city authorities. The team had to secure permits, design a safe route, manage street closures, and ensure compliance with local regulations. Safety protocols, float designs, and volunteer marshals were also part of the plan. Developing, designing, making, and shipping logistics for decoration materials was very challenging. This parade became a meaningful opportunity to bring Jain values into the public space and share our culture with the larger community.

The additional security, the additional costs of trailers carrying the floats, the additional day of food planning and the beautification of JCNC first floor caused the expenses to increase. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee reached out to the BoD to increase the budget. Looking at the incoming pledges and the excitement in the community the BoD approved the additional budget.

#### **Dilemma 6: Parking & Crowd Management**

Hosting thousands meant detailed planning for **parking, seating, entry/exit flow**, and emergency protocols. Welcoming over 2,000 people during peak events required a robust logistics plan. The team had to arrange for overflow parking, shuttle service (if needed), and designate volunteers for directing traffic. Entry and exit points were reviewed for safety, while seating, signage, and restroom access were thoughtfully planned to ensure a smooth experience for families, seniors, and guests.

#### **Dilemma 7: Fundraising Efforts**

Meeting budget goals required a strong fundraising strategy, community outreach, and sponsorship support. While the budget was revised and optimized, there remained a significant funding gap. The Core committee in conjunction with the Fundraising Subcommittee launched a multi-step campaign—reaching out to donors, families, and businesses. Labh opportunities, sponsorship tiers, and donor recognition programs were designed to invite participation at all levels.

The generosity of the Sangh helped bring the vision to life, making this celebration a true community effort. Substantial funds were raised to support the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event and additionally support the upcoming projects like the Bhavan renovation project.

#### **Dilemma 8: Shipping Challenges for Decoration Items**

As part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, the team envisioned a truly special and elaborate decoration of the temple to reflect the significance of this milestone. A dedicated group of volunteers collaborated extensively with vendors in India—spending countless hours on Zoom and video calls—to finalize a unique and traditional set of decorative items that would elevate the spiritual ambiance of JCNC.

To manage costs, the plan was to ship these items via ocean freight in a consolidated container. However, due to complex vendor coordination and logistical challenges in India, the shipment encountered repeated delays and was at risk of not arriving in time.

At this critical juncture, a few committed volunteers stepped in with extraordinary dedication. They took ownership of the situation, resolved numerous roadblocks, and ensured that the shipment reached JCNC successfully and on time. In a remarkable gesture of generosity, they personally covered the shipping costs as their contribution to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

#### **Dilemma 9: Swamivatsalya for Thousands with Precision and Purpose**

Swamivatsalya for thousands of attendees across multiple days of JCNC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was both an honor and a major logistical challenge. Coordinating meals that were fresh, timely, and aligned with Jain principles required not just passion, but precision. With limited turnaround time between events, managing kitchen operations, volunteer rotations, menu planning, and procurement became a complex puzzle. Expectations were high, and any delay or misstep could disrupt the entire flow of the day.

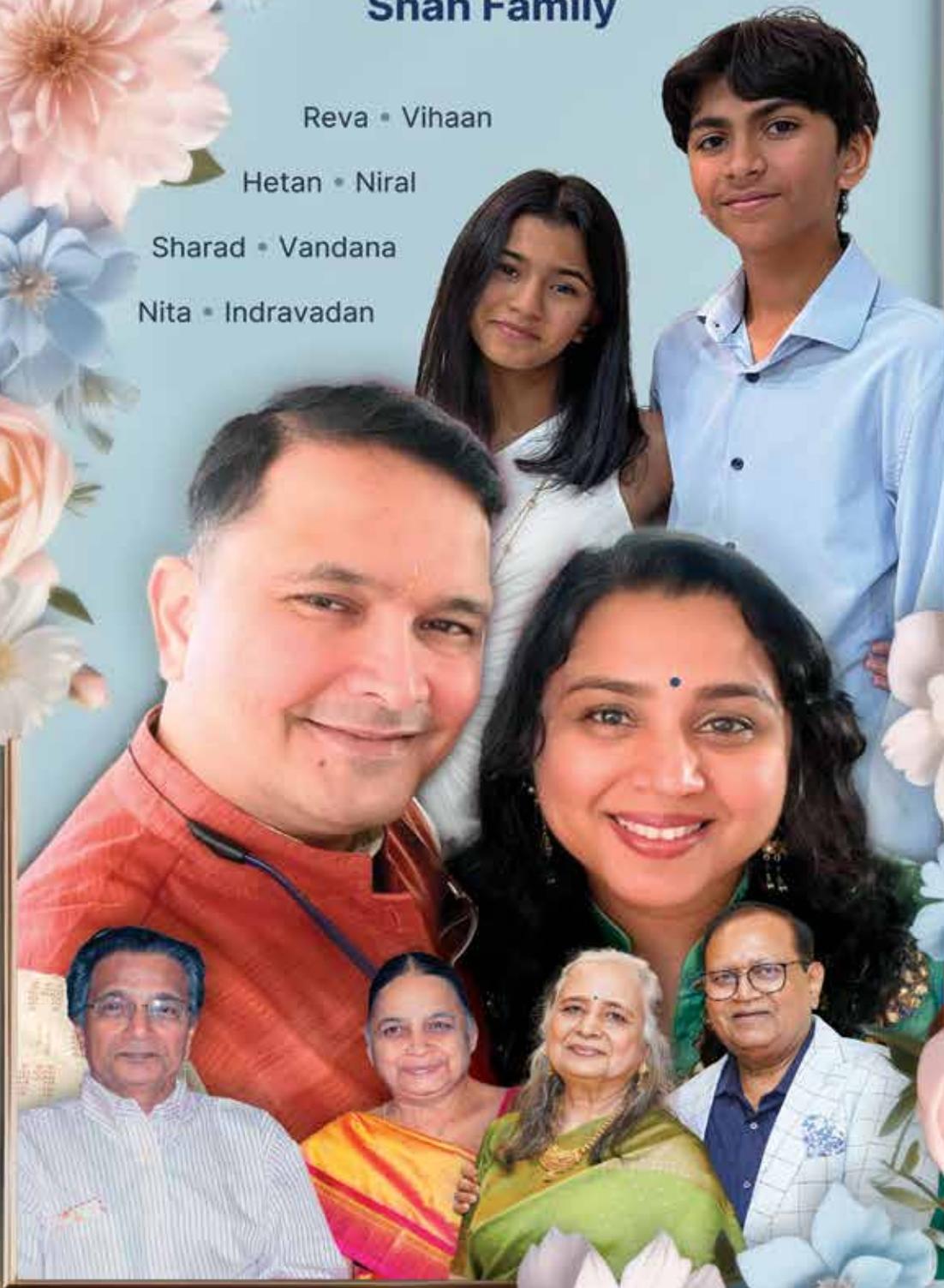
With gratitude & devotion,  
**Shah Family**

Reva • Vihaan

Hetan • Niral

Sharad • Vandana

Nita • Indravadan



To navigate this, the team leaned into early planning and strong coordination with event leads. Volunteer teams were rotated thoughtfully to avoid burnout, and clear responsibilities were assigned. The effort to incorporate regional Jain dishes, sustainable practices, and culturally thoughtful details added both meaning and complexity to the task. Despite the intensity, the team remained united by the spirit of seva.

### **Celebrating a Legacy, Inspiring the Future**

Through every challenge, the team stayed focused on the bigger goal—celebrating 25 years of JCNC’s spiritual service, community unity, and growth. This celebration is a tribute to the founding members, volunteers, teachers, donors, and devotees who made this journey possible.

As we come together from **July 25 to August 5, 2025**, we celebrate not just an anniversary, but the **spirit of Jain dharma**, built on **knowledge, action, seva, and unity**.

**The JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee extends heartfelt gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers, as well as the EC and BOD teams, for their wholehearted support in making this milestone celebration a grand success.**

**Jai Jinendra**

**JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee**



*JCNC extends its heartfelt gratitude to these volunteers for going above and beyond in bringing the exquisite decoration items from India via ocean for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Your commitment ensured that the vision for a beautifully decorated temple became a reality, adding a memorable and devotional atmosphere to the celebration.*



**Shri Amit Kumar Jain**  
Citi Freight Logistics



**Shri Paras Gandhi**  
Bay Packaging

***Khub Khub Anumodana for your incredible support and seva!***

॥ ॐ श्री आदिनाथाय नमः ॥

On this momentous 25th anniversary of the  
**Jain Center of Northern California**

We, Nitul, Swati, Rashi and Ruchi Haria, extend  
our deepest admiration and warmest  
congratulations.



## JCNC Seniors Mixer Group

The Golden Ideal Family - By Kirit Bavishi

JCNC promotes innovative and healthy relationships for Jain families of all ages, importantly for senior citizens. It has established varieties of religious, spiritual, social, and cultural programs for them. It was started as "Seniors Mixer Group" in about 2005, with the goal that all seniors live their life to the fullest of spirit, emotions, physical strength, and social connections. The monthly programs are designed to engage seniors in fun-filled religious, cultural and informative activities.



It started with a small group. Progressively the program became attractive and enjoyable. The participation now grown up to 300 members. The Seniors Mixer program is free, and conducted once a month, generally on the second Saturday followed by delicious lunch. With the popularity of the Senior program, the "Senior Mixer Group" became one ideal family and so named it now "The Golden Ideal Family".



The various activities conducted are, just to name a few - celebrations of the monthly events including birthdays/anniversaries, cultural and religious dances/drama, health fairs, senior citizen wellness and benefit seminars, technology learning, religious programs, picnics, games, yatra trips and many more such interesting programs.



Best wishes  
to  
JCNC  
on their  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Meena Nitin Mehta and Sudha Pankaj Mehta Family.  
Along with Hetal, Jigar and Nishka.  
Prachi and Harshit.  
Devanshi and Jay.  
Trupti and Viram.

# JCNC Dhawaja Dand Pratishtha Mahotsav

A History of Making Traditional Dhawaja Dand

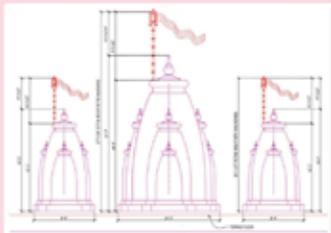


Jain Center of Northern California

**Kirit Bavishi, Chair BOD Dhawaja Dand Committee**

## **JCNC - A Unique Jain Temple**

Our Derasar, an exemplary place of worship, where all five united Jain traditions celebrated Pratishtha Mahotsav of this Jain Bhawan in 2000. This temple is a symbol of a strong Jain Community in the USA, ensuring propriety of Jainism for many more generations to come.



## **Need for the Traditional Dhawaja Dand**

With the blessings of Shri Adinath Bhagwan, our temple is not only Pran Pratishthit, but also architecturally innovative. However, since consecration, like a king without crown, our three Shikharji were without Traditional Dhawaja Dand in accordance with Jain Shilp, and JCNC initiated their efforts to fulfill the need of a new traditional Dhawaja Dand.

## **Significance of a Traditional Dhawaja (flag-a spiritual soul) and Dhawaja Dand (flagpole-a spiritual body)**

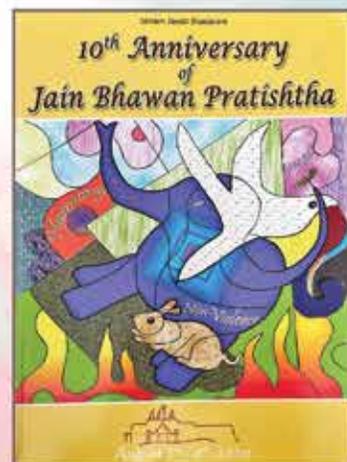
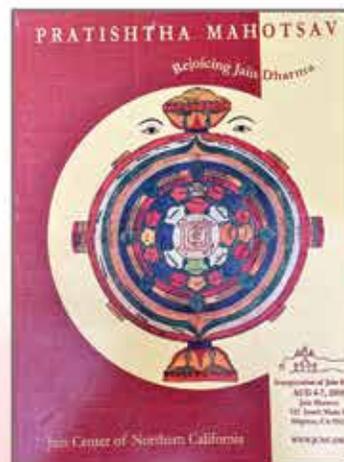
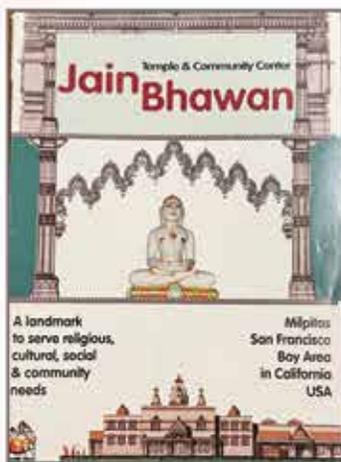
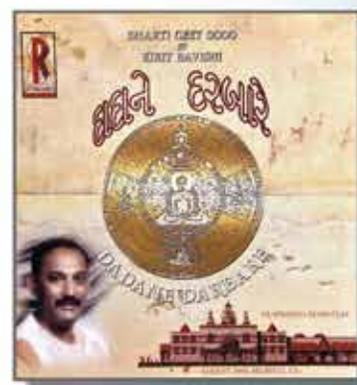
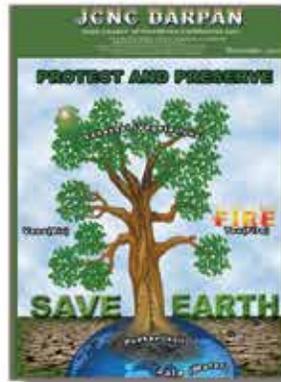
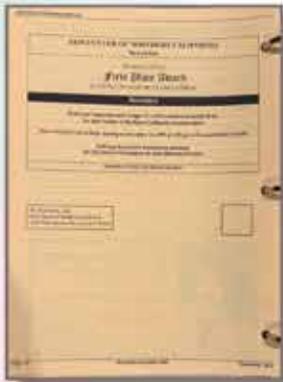
The Dhawaja Dand is: (1) connection to divine from the earthly realm to cosmos that represents the presence of deity blessings over temple (2) fluttering Dhawaja atop Dand is believed to create a protective shield around temple and worshipper and guarding them from negative forces (3) they represent the three keys of salvation (Moksha) – right vision (Samyak Darshan), right knowledge (Samyak Gnan) and right conduct (Samyak Charitra). The Dhawaja over Dand also called Indra Dhawaja represents one of thirty-four (34) miraculous occurrences happen when Keval Gnan (ultimate knowledge) is attained by Tirthankar and Indra Dev sways Dhawaja in front of Tirthankar.

## **History of Making Dhawaja Dand Project**



The Board of Directors (2023-2024) formed a special Dhawaja Dand Committee. The project consisted of three traditional Dhawaja Dand over three main Shikhar. The Dhawaja Dand committee put to work with the site investigation, research for appropriate resources including Jain Shilp Shashtra Sompura, Dhawaja Dand specialized India engineer/Architect, and Dhawaja Dand fabricators. India Engineer/Architect procured as-built data for design criteria during his USA visit to temple. The extraordinary team members worked very hard in co-operation with JCNC BOD and EC members. The committee ensured selection of qualified fabricators, quality of Dhawaja Dand and supporting structures and its shipment. The team lined up a licensed contractor and construction inspection team.

# JCNC HISTORY ARCHIVES



In August 2024, the Dhwaja Dand shipment arrived. The Contractor completed quality construction work as scheduled. The installation of traditional Dhwaja Dand was complete.

### The Grand Dhwaja Dand Pratishtha Mahotsav

In September 2024, the Special Dhwaja Dand Committee, BOD, and EC team performed the grand Dhwaja Dand Abhishek ceremony. In October 2024, the JCNC Community wholeheartedly participated in grand procession and grand Dhwaja Dand Pratishtha Mahotsav. Now we have a complete Shikharbandhi Derasar with traditional Dhwaja Dand crown.





JAI JINENDRA | JAI MAHAVIR



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## Jain Muktak (Poem)



**Nirmal Doshi**

### **रुबाइयाँ**

चाह इतनी न कर कि अपनी दिशा को ही भूल जाए  
अंतर्मन को इतना न उलझा कि सुलझे न फिर मुझसे I  
ज्योति ऐसी जले मन मंदिर में आस्थाये धूप सी पावन हो  
त्याग की प्रतिमा रहे, साहस दुग्ध कलश उड़लता रहे II

हर समय तो रुकावट आ नहीं सकती  
हर समय तो कहानी घट नहीं सकती I  
अपनी मंजिल को अंधेरे में न छोड़ना  
वक्त बीते कहानी गुनगुनाई जा नहीं सकती II

### **मुक्तत**

अपने को अर्पण मैं कर दूँ  
एक महान कदम के आगे I  
कर ध्यान उन्हीं पावन राहों का  
मिटा दूँ मोह ही सबके पहले II

मन मेरा दर्पण बन जाये  
कह दे रूप सभी के मन का I  
भुला दे अपने रूप को भी  
जब पीड़ा किसी की अपनाये II

क्षण क्षण का हिसाब रखूँ में  
किस क्षण क्या पाया मैंने I  
अंतरआत्म उजाला कर दे  
गलत राह जब चाह की मैंने II

मेरा मुझसे विद्रोह मिट जावे  
तन मन वाणी एक रूख हो I  
चले उस राह में जिसकी ओर  
ज्ञान प्रकाश हो, तम तिमिर न आवे II

### **प्राथनाएँ**

हे प्रभु !  
तुम गीतों में आवो  
युग को नव प्राण दे जावो !

लड़ रहे पात विश्व वृक्ष पर  
झगड़ते तृण खलियानो में  
सत्ता पाते फिर भी क्यों  
लृष्णा शांत नहीं होती  
इन सबको प्रेम शब्द समझाओ !

तपेदिक स्वार्थ का इतना  
पारा भी क्यों बढ़ता जाता  
झूठे आचारों की सरिता बहती  
कल कल अशांति करती जाती  
इन आवाजों को शांति प्रेम दो !

उपकरणों की कहाँ सीमा है  
सामंजस कौन रखता है  
झूठे श्रंगारों का पर्दा रख  
तपता युग अजीब व्यथा में  
इनको मुग्ध सादगी पढ़वाओ !

Nirmal Doshi is a coordinator of JAINA Scholars Program. He was a speaker on the subject of removing poverty at the UN world religion conference in 2000 and at the Unity seminar with Dr. N.P. Jain at 2005 JAINA convention in the San Francisco Bay Areas.

# શુભ રજત જયંતિ મહોત્સવ

જૈન સેન્ટર ઓફ નોર્થર્ન કેલિફોર્નિયા - ૨૫ વર્ષની ધર્મયાત્રા!

અહિંસાની આ ધરતી પર શાંતિ, શરણે અને સત્કર્મનું  
જે દીપક ૨૫ વર્ષ પહેલાં પ્રગટ્યું,  
આજે તે દીપક દીપાવલિ બની  
સમગ્ર સમાજને ધર્મમય પ્રકાશ આપે છે.

આ ધર્મધામે માત્ર પૂજા નહીં,  
પણ પેઢી દર પેઢી સુધી સંસ્કાર, જ્ઞાન  
અને સમ્યક દ્રષ્ટિનો વારસો આપ્યો છે.

આ રજત વર્ષગાંઠે,  
જ્યાં ભાવ, ભક્તિ અને ભવ્યાંગતાના અવિસ્મરણીય ક્ષણો છે -  
તેવા પાવન પ્રસંગે મારી તરફથી,

મિલન-માધુરી, વિશાલ-હેલી, અયાના-અયાન  
બાવિશી પરિવાર (પાલીતાણાવાળા) તરફથી  
હાર્દિક અભિનંદન અને શુભેચ્છાઓ...

આ યશસ્વી સેવા કાર્ય શતાબ્દીઓ સુધી ધર્મદીપ સમું ઉજાગર રહે - એવી પ્રાર્થના!



## કર્મની ગતિ

કર્મની ગતિ છે બહુ ન્યારી,  
આવે છે સૌની એ વારી,  
સૌ કોઈએ એને નકારી,  
કોઈ વીરલાને થઈ એ પ્યારી.

તોડી જો ઘટમાળ એ સારી,  
દેખાણી ત્યાં મોક્ષની બારી,  
માયા દેહ તણી વિસારી,  
પ્રગટાવી સહજ સ્વરૂપ નિર્વિકારી.

દેહને આતમ એકજ લાખે,  
જ્યાં લગ કષયો હૃદયે વાસે,  
તોડ્યો રાગ અને છોડ્યો દ્વેષ,  
વિસર્યો દેહ તણો આ ખેષ.

રાગ જતાં વસીયો વીતરાગ,  
આતમ નિર્મળ થયો સજાગ,  
પહેરાવી સમકિત વરમાળ,  
તૂટ્યો ભવોભવ અનંત કાળ.

મળિયા જ્ઞાની સદ્ગુરૂ રાજ,  
હવે ચિન્તા મુજ શાને કાજ.  
બીજા રામ અને શ્રી મહાવીર,  
મુક્તિપંથનો ખરો એ હીર.

નમન કરું તુજ દે આશિષ,  
તુજ ચરણે રહે સદા આ શિષ.  
મુક્તિપુરીમાં મળશું કાલ,  
કાલ નહીં તો નહીં બહુ કાળ.

'સુરુ'  
(પ્રવીણ તુરખીયા)

◆ JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Song, August 2025 ◆

રજત જયંતી કા અવસર શુભમ આ ગયા



તીર્થકર પ્રભુ વીર કી વાળી  
જનહિતકારી જગ કલ્યાણી

જય આદિશ્વર શાસન નાયક આદિશ્વર કી જય  
તીર્થકર આદિશ્વર કી જય

જૈન ધર્મ કા તીર્થ બના કે પાવન ધરા કો કિયા  
રજત જયંતી કા અવસર શુભમ આ ગયા

સબ પંથો કા દ્વાર મહામંત્ર નવકાર  
યહૌં સમતા શાન્તિ હી પાયે રે  
લગે સબકો હી પ્યારા બહે ભક્તિ કી ધારા  
પ્રભુ આશીષ વરસાયે રે

એક નયા ઇતિહાસ રચા કે પુણ્ય કા કામ કિયા  
રજત જયંતી કા અવસર શુભમ આ ગયા

તપ ચરિત્ર જાને કરુણા અહિંસા કો માને  
ધર્મ ધ્યાન સમી પાયે રે

આદિનાથ અલબેલે પાર્શ્વ પ્રભુવર નિરાલે  
પ્યારે વીર પ્રભુ સુહાયે રે

સમવસરણ અદ્ભુત લાગે લાગે રે સબકા જિયા  
રજત જયંતી કા અવસર શુભમ આ ગયા

આયા સ્વર્ગ ધરા પર હરખે હૈ મિલપિટાસ નગરિયા  
હો નામ સે કર્મ સે ધર્મ જ્ઞાન સેચર્ચિત હુઈ રે નગરિયા  
જિન શાસન કી અમર વિરાસત, શાન બઢાંંગી નવ પીઢિયા  
રજત જયંતી કા અવસર શુભમ આ ગયા

Music recreated: Vivek Prakash

Singer: Priyanka Marolia Jain

Song Writers: Pratibha Bothra, Kirit Bavishi

# JCNC PVSA (President's Volunteer Service Award) Spreading Compassion, One Act at a Time

## Vision and Mission

In 2017, JCNC launched a humble initiative with just a few young volunteers to provide a platform for youths. Today, that spark has grown into a powerful movement - one that now includes over 90 dedicated youths who exemplify the true spirit of Jain values of "**compassion in action**". In partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, JCNC proudly presents the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) to outstanding youth volunteers aged 13 to 19. This program is more than a recognition—it's a *pathway to shaping future Jain leaders grounded in ethics, empathy, and service*.

At its heart, this program aims to carry forward Bhagwan Mahavir's message of compassion for all living beings. Through selfless acts of seva, our youth not only support their communities but also embody the essence of Jain dharma in their everyday lives.

## An enduring legacy of service built over eight years

Over the past eight years, JCNC PVSA has nurtured and guided more than 200+ youth volunteers, proudly awarding them the prestigious Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA).

JCNC's PVSA program is deeply rooted in compassionate service and Jain principles, with a strong emphasis on Ahimsa, Sewa, and equality for all living beings.



## Our Impact

Our youth's seva reflects deep compassion - honoring every child and spreading joy, especially when engaging with children with special needs, autism, and neurodivergence. We are proud to partner with organizations like Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN), building bridges of understanding, inclusion, and heartfelt connection through service.



**50,000+ hours**

Community service by youth and parents fostering positive impact.



**400+ activities**

Our youths contributed in outreach events with reputed organizations.



**200,000+ lbs**

sorted and packed fresh produce at Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.



**3000+ meals**

packed and served hot meals for LifeMoves Shelter and JW House (Kaiser Permanente)



**3000+ Jain meals**

Prepared and served ahimsa meals promoting Jain values of non-violence.



**300+ hours**

with Habitat for Humanity, building playhouses for children.



**2,500+ lbs**

of trash collected during National and International coastal cleanup events.



**3,000+ lbs**

of Jain non-perishable food donated for SEWA Diwali during the holidays.

# Our Key Pillars

## Environmental Stewardship:

- Participated in major clean-up events such as National River Cleanup Day, Save The Bay, Aquameridian Coastal Cleanup, and City of Milpitas Creek Restoration.
- Organized multiple recycling drives for Staples to collect ink cartridges, school supplies, and e-waste.

## Homeless Outreach & Food Relief:

- Prepared, donated and served meals through organizations such as LifeMoves Homeless Shelter.
- Sorted and packed fresh produce for Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.
- Regularly participated in preparing and serving meals for Kaiser Permanente's outpatient aftercare families.

## Education & Equality Initiatives:

- Partnered with Divyadaan, collecting school supplies every summer and winter.
- Led seasonal clothing drives - coats in winter, summer clothing in spring, and formal wear in the fall - for underserved children and adults.
- Tutored and assisted senior citizens with technology literacy workshops.

## Cultural, Kids with Special Needs & Interfaith Collaboration:

- Actively participated in Silicon Valley Interreligious Council (SIVIC), delivering Ahimsa Meals and building bridges through service.
- Volunteered in Family Giving Tree gift-wrapping events, spreading joy to families during the holiday season.
- Collaborated with organizations like Friends and Children of Special needs, Hope's corner, UPMA, Hamara Foundation, Mind4Youth to help kids with special needs.

## Animal Compassion & Welfare:

- Supported Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary during Thanksgiving to promote compassion for all beings.
- Advocated for veganism and sustainable living through temple events and youth presentations.

## Temple and Pathshala Sewa:

- Served selflessly during Paryushan Parva, Ayambil Oli, and weekly Pathshala events.
- Youths regularly assist in setup, food prep, and cleanup, embodying the true spirit of sewa at JCNC.



## Looking Ahead with Gratitude

To our graduating students: we are confident that the lessons learned here will guide you forward, wherever life takes you. May you continue to spread Bhagwan Mahavir's timeless message and be a light for others, as you have been for us.

This program's success would not be possible without the vision and support of JCNC leadership (past and present), the Jain community, the PVSA team, devoted parents, and above all - **You, the Youth.**

Thank you for being the heartbeat of this mission.  
*Your compassion is your legacy.* 🙏



# KutchValley

KutchValley congratulates JCNC  
on its Silver Jubilee!

Thank you for your dedicated efforts in  
promoting Jain values and  
strengthening the bonds  
in the Bay Area Jain community.



જય  જિનેન્ક

With Best Wishes & Compliments



# Aahana Nahata

Age 12, Current Pathshala Student

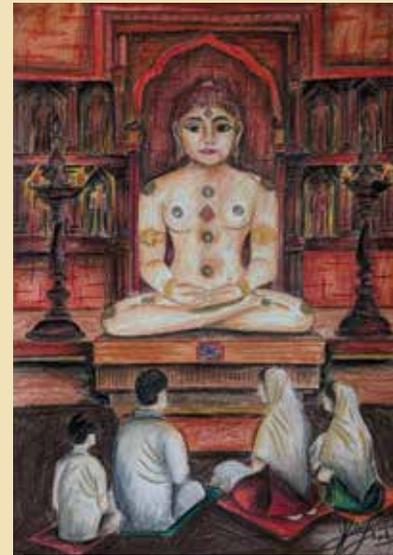
My work illustrates the celebration  
of our temple



# Jinam Nirav Shah

Age 14, Ex-Pathshala student

Our Updhaan Dream - One of the most meaningful  
experiences of my life—doing Adharyu in India  
with my mom and brother



# Shristi Deepak Jain

Age 16, Ex-Pathshala student

A Pearl from Palitana



# Anvie Shah

Age 10, Current Pathshala Student

This artwork shows a meditative figure with  
the "ॐ" symbol, radiating colorful energy,  
symbolizing inner peace and spiritual  
awakening.





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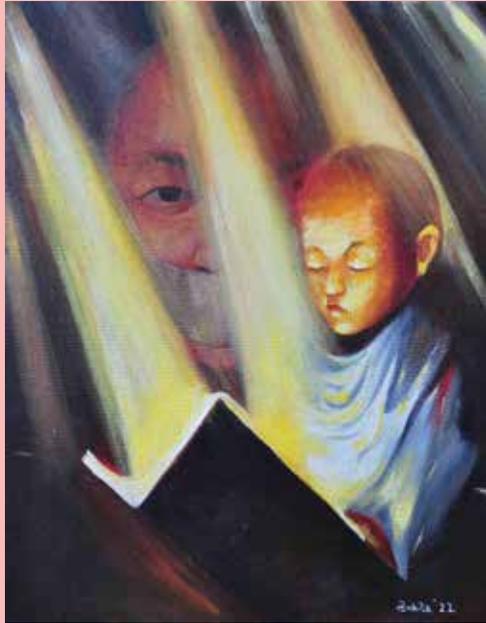
✉ [jay.shah@mobilitycity.com](mailto:jay.shah@mobilitycity.com)

📍 128 West Calvares Blvd, Milpitas, CA 95035.

🌐 <https://milpitasca.mobilitycity.com>

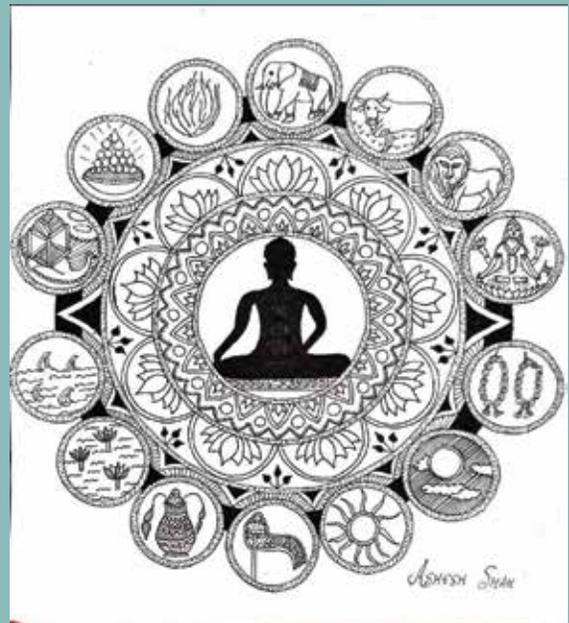
# Ankita Sancheti

Devotion



# Ashesh Shah

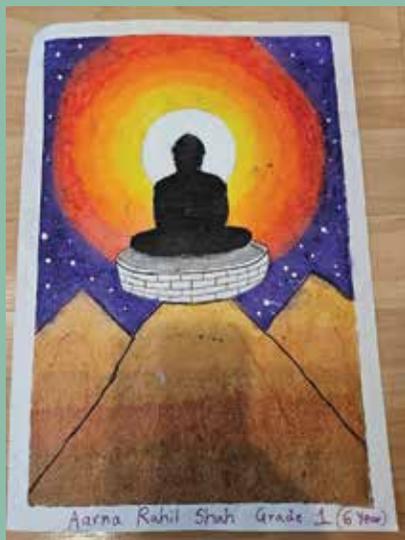
The Auspicious Vision: Lord Mahavira and the Fourteen Dreams



# Aarna Shah

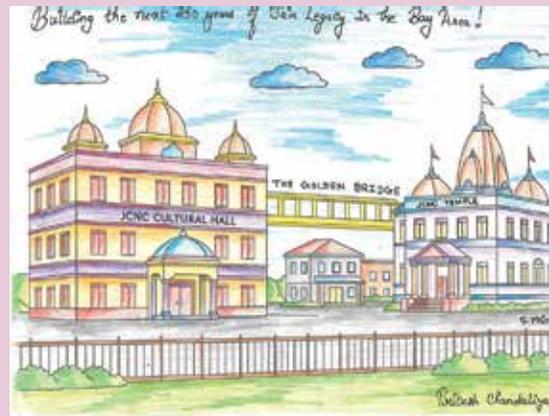
Age 6, Current Pathshala Student

Lord Mahavir is attending Kevalgyan



# Pritesh Chandaliya

This artwork represents the expansion of JCNC—from a temple to its next inspiring phase: a Cultural Center, connected by a golden bridge.





"Architecture is the thoughtful making of space." - Louis Kahn

ARCHEvon congratulates the Jain Temple on its remarkable  
25th Anniversary.

We are honored to have crafted the thoughtful spaces that have  
nurtured the faith and community here for a quarter-century. May its  
timeless design continue to guide, inspire and uplift generations to come.

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# Avni Shah

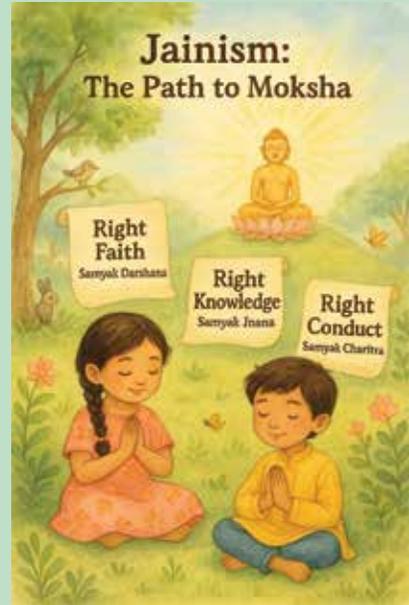
Ex Pathshala Student

AAAUM: Initials of the Pañca-Parameshthi



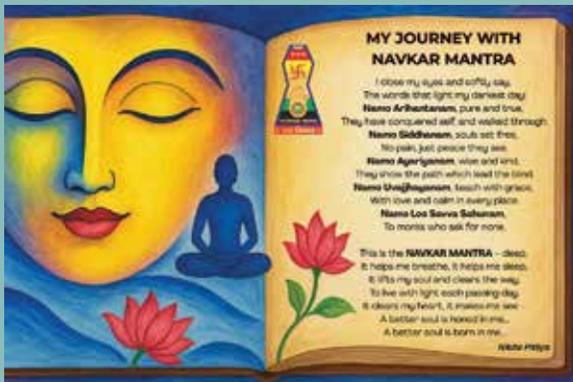
# Sagar Shah

The Path to Moksha (AI Generated)



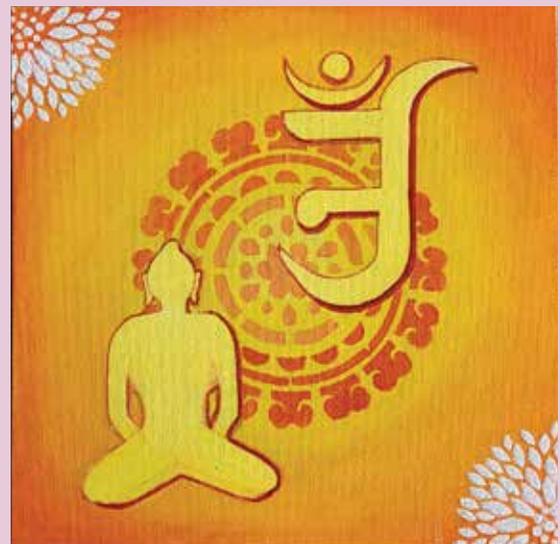
# Nikita Pitliya

This artwork reflects my personal journey of awakening—an inner transformation shaped and soothed by the timeless power of the Navkar Mantra.



# Kinjal Parikh

Jain Om symbol with abstract idea of Mahavir Bhagwan and Mandala background





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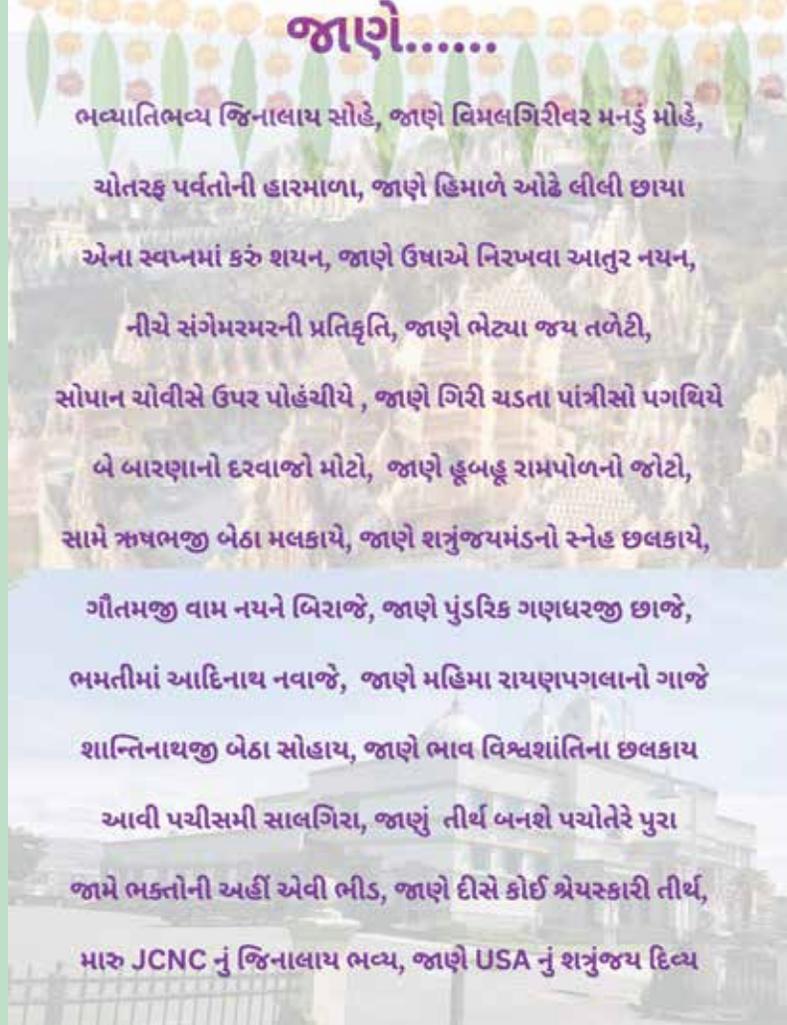
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# Shreya Piyush Shah

A gujarati poem to express my feelings about JCNC Temple



A majestic Jinalay stands in splendor,  
As if Vimalgiri makes my heart surrender

Embraced by mountains, so sound,  
As if valley wraps green winter around.

In its dreams, I wish to rest and lie,  
As if the dawn waits with longing eyes.

Below lies a marble replica divine,  
As if Jay Taleti were glorified to shine

Climbing its 24 steps to ascend,  
As if rising a mountain to 3500 steps

A grand gate with two large doors,  
As if a replica of Ram Pol it restores

There sits "Dada" with a radiant face,  
As if love flows through this space

Gautam swami graces with gentle gaze,  
As if Pundarik Gandhar fills the space.

Adinathji blesses from the bhamti shrine,  
As if sacred Rayan Pagla divine.

Shantinathji sits in peaceful light,  
As if the world glows calm delight.

Now comes the 25<sup>th</sup> year we see,  
As if in 75 years a true tirth it shall be.

Devotees gather in numbers untold,  
As if a sacred tirth pure and bold.

*Our JCNC Jinalaya, grand and divine,  
As if Shatrunjay has come to USA to shine*

*Best wishes as you celebrate 25 years  
of Community and Tradition*



Congratulations to the Jain Center of Northern California  
on this incredible milestone!

We are honored to have been part of the JCNC's story,  
helping to enhance a space that serves as a beacon of  
faith, culture, and connection for so many.

– The Hillhouse Construction Team



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## Krish Shah, Age 17, Ex Pathshala Student

### A Picture worth a thousand words

**M**y story highlights the importance of JCNC and my 17 years association with it in shaping my growth as an individual showcasing my ability to give back to the community. Done. I gently dropped the final piece into the puzzle, forming a complete picture – each piece slotted neatly to fit in with its counterparts. After hours of work over a couple of weeks,

I completed a five-hundred-piece puzzle picturing a notable characteristic of each state in the US. Alone, these pieces are primarily meaningless and uninterpretable, but together, a clear and recognizable image emerges. If I didn't understand that the pieces were meant to be interpreted together, I wouldn't have been able to appreciate each piece meaningfully; discovering the interconnectedness in a puzzle transcends beyond mere objects but also correlates to the interconnectedness between people in a community and concern for one another. In my own experiences, the Jain Center of Northern California has fostered my capabilities and allowed me to understand my privilege and how to give back to those in need, leading me to recognize the connections made with my counterparts and the impact collective efforts have on society.

Community involvement can never get better than getting associated with one's own community. I joined the Jain Pathshala as a Toddler and went all the way until I graduated. The journey from a three-year-old toddler to an eighteen-year-old young adult has been incredible and taught me a lot of life lessons. From doing small things at the temple such as learning Jainism, practicing principles of Jainism, respecting elders, serving meals, helping in the kitchen, to being associated with non-profit organizations with ambition to save countless lives' makes a difference. I found that my true happiness lies in establishing brother and sister-like connections with my

community and demonstrating affection and kind gestures for them. I am fortunate enough that I got the opportunity to discover not only myself and my emotions but also express my feelings for those I care about.

Furthermore, through countless activities that span from senior technology class to even a fundraiser for animals in need, the impacts I have made make me proud and assure me that I am in a position where I can help others and will help others. Speaking from personal experience, my grandparents do not quite understand everything about new technology and the iPhone such as social media, google maps, and even just the weather app! Through hosting senior technology classes, I was able to work closely with many seniors like my own grandparents and help them understand the necessity and need for learning certain things in this era.

Apart from the subject at hand, I learned several things through teaching someone: patience, communication, and commitment. I have learnt that sometimes it's leadership skills, while at times it's your patience and perseverance that would help you go a long way. This experience has led me to not only understand my own privilege, but also my ability to make a difference in others' lives.

I started to appreciate all the things I have in life- food, home, school, family and the opportunity to serve others is truly what reminds me of who I am. I will continue to give back to others in my community no matter where I go. To see the smile on a child's face or to see a hungry person eating peacefully assures me of my contributions and motivates me to continue my journey on this path.

I look forward to collaborating with the Jain Centre of Northern California and making my life meaningful with my dedicated service towards the ones who need it and be the reason for someone's smile.

**“I found that my true happiness lies in establishing brother and sister-like connections with my community and demonstrating affection and kind gestures for them.”**

ॐ

શ્રી તીર્થકરાદિએ ફરી ફરી જીવોને ઉપદેશ કહ્યો છે; પણ જીવ દિશામૂઢ રહેવા ઈચ્છે છે ત્યાં ઉપાય પ્રવર્તી શકે નહીં. ફરી ફરી ઠોકીને કહ્યું છે કે એક આ જીવ સમજે તો સહજ મોક્ષ છે, નહીં તો અનંત ઉપાયે પણ નથી. અને તે સમજવું પણ કંઈ વિકટ નથી., કેમકે જીવનું સહજ જે સ્વરૂપ છે તે જ માત્ર સમજવું છે; અને તે કંઈ બીજાના સ્વરૂપની વાત નથી કે વખતે તે ગોપવે કે ન જણાવે, તેથી સમજવી ન બને. પોતાથી પોતે ગુપ્ત રહેવાવું શી રીતે બનવા યોગ્ય છે? પણ સ્વપ્નદશામાં જેમ ન બનવા યોગ્ય એવું પોતાનું મૃત્યુ પણ જીવ જુએ છે, તેમ અજ્ઞાનદશારૂપ સ્વપ્નરૂપયોગે આ જીવ પોતાને, પોતાના નહીં એવા બીજાં દ્રવ્યને વિષે સ્વપણે માને છે; અને એજ માન્યતા તે સંસાર છે, તે જ અજ્ઞાન છે, નરકાદિ ગતિનો હેતુ તે જ છે, તે જ જન્મ છે, મરણ છે અને તે જ દેહ છે, દેહના વિકાર છે, તે જ પુત્ર, તે જ પિતા, તે જ શત્રુ, તે જ મિત્રાદિ ભાવ કલ્પનાના હેતુ છે, અને તેની નિવૃત્તિ થઈ ત્યાં સહજ મોક્ષ છે; અને એ જ નિવૃત્તિને અર્થ સત્સંગ, સત્પુરૂષાદિ સાધન કહ્યાં છે; તે સાધન પણ જીવ જો પોતાના પુરૂષાર્થને તેમાં ગોપવ્યા સિવાય પ્રવર્તાવે તો જ સિદ્ધ છે. વધારે શું કહીએ? આટલો જ સંક્ષેપ જીવમાં પરિણામ પામે તો તે સર્વ વ્રત, યમ, નિયમ, જપ, યાત્રા, ભક્તિ, શાસ્ત્રજ્ઞાન આદિ કરી છૂટ્યો એમાં કંઈ સંશય નથી. એ જ વિનંતિ.

શ્રીમદ્ રાજચંદ્ર

(વચનામૃત પત્રાંક ૫૩૭ માંથી)

સૌજન્ય: સાનફાન્સીસ્કો મુમુક્ષુ મંડળ

## Paras Shah, *Ex Pathshala Student*

### A Life Shaped by Jain Values

**B**efore I was born, my journey with the JCNC had already begun—my mother attended its khana vidhi while I was still in her womb. By the time I turned two, I stood in the bhamaati for the pratistha of Neminath Bhagwan. Only now do I realize how blessed those early moments were.

As I reflect on my journey, both now as a doctor and a life-long follower of Jainism, I realize that the foundation laid by JCNC during my youth have shaped me in ways far beyond religious learning. From a young age, attending Jain Pathshala gave me more than knowledge; it gave me sanskars. The principles of Ahimsa, Satya, Aparigraha, and Samyak Darshan became guiding forces in my life.

As a doctor, Ahimsa taught me compassion. Every time I treat a patient, I remember the sacredness of life. The sensitivity to avoid harm, even

unintentionally, makes me a more empathetic and ethical medical professional. The principle of Satya keeps me honest and transparent with my patients and colleagues. Tapasya and discipline taught during Paryushan and pratikraman have also helped me build patience and dedication.

These very values also inspired me to stay in India long enough to complete the Updhan Tap and also 99-yatra at Palitana. Living those austerities firsthand let me experience, in a tangible way, the practical wisdom that Pathshala had planted in me years before.

As JCNC completes 25 years, I feel immense gratitude. It is not just a place of worship, but a source of lifelong guidance and friendship. The teachings from Pathshala are not limited to books; they live through my thoughts, decisions, and actions every day.

I am happy that, thanks to JCNC, future generations will also have the opportunity to carry forward the torch of Jain values.

**“The sensitivity to avoid harm, even unintentionally, makes me a more empathetic and ethical medical professional.”**

## Tvisha Nepani, *Ex Pathshala, Student*

### My experience studying at pathshala

**F**or a long time, Jainism felt like something I had to memorize, not something I could live. I approached Pathshala like another class—sutras to recite, lessons to pass—but over time, the environment began to shift my thinking. It wasn't just passive learning; Pathshala became the bridge between tradition and intention for me. The stories we studied weren't just history—they carried the origins of the values that shape our way of life.

We didn't just hear about historical figures like Chandanbala; we explored their choices, their inner strength, their restraint. Our teachers didn't lecture from a distance; they asked questions, encouraged

reflection, and made space for us to connect the dots between those ancient lives and our own. That's what changed everything for me. I stopped seeing Jainism as a set of disconnected rituals and started recognizing its principles in my everyday decisions.

But Pathshala wasn't solely about religion or developing knowledge—it was also about community. Some of my best memories come from the moments outside the classroom: bonding over late-night conversations at shala sleepovers, feeding rescued animals during jiv daya trips and seeing firsthand how our values extended into care for all living beings, and the joy of day camps that gave us something to look

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forward to every year. These weren't just social events, they were formative experiences that tied learning to friendship, that made the philosophy feel lived-in and real. I grew up alongside people who shared my values, not just because we were told to, but because we experienced them together. Pathshala, for me, will always be as much about those relationships as it is about the spiritual growth it sparked.

Moreover, thanks to Pathshala, I began to internalize principles instead of just remembering the lessons. I understood that minimalism wasn't

just about owning less—it was about quieting excess, in thought and action. Paryushan became more than a week-long ritual; its essence—*self-restraint, intentionality, reflection*—started to shape my choices year-round. And *ahimsa*, the backbone of Jainism, became not just a rule, but a mindset—guiding how I speak, how I think, how I show up in the world.

Pathshala didn't just teach me religion; it helped me live it, not perfectly, but consciously, and with purpose.

**“Pathshala didn't just teach me religion; it helped me live it, not perfectly, but consciously, and with purpose.”**

## **Dhyanvi Mehta, Age 12, Current Pathshala Student**

Jains are from Ahimsa,  
From beautiful stavans to inspiring bhavanas,  
We are from the marble darbaar,  
Non-violence, truthfulness, non-stealing, chastity, and non-possessiveness  
We are from Navkar Mahamantra,  
From scriptures and divinity.

Jains are from doing fasting, rituals, and prayers  
From virtue, kindness, and forgiveness,  
Part of Jainism's basic principles

We are from invigorating dances to enlightening skits  
From the shining, talented generations  
From “Namo Jinaanam” to “Jai Jinendra”  
We are from Jain shalas and books,  
Teaching us that “one should live, and let live”

We are from the three flags waving on the roof,  
From thousands of people clapping together,  
From samayiks and pratikamans,  
Jains are from true devotion.



JCNC  
25<sup>TH</sup>  
CONGRATS

तत् ॐ सत्

બીજું કાંઈ શોધમા. માત્ર એક સત્પુરુષને શોધીને તેના ચરણ-કમળમાં  
સર્વભાવ અર્પણ કરી દઈ વત્યો જા. પછી જો મોક્ષ ન મળે તો મારી  
પાસેથી લેજે.

સત્પુરુષ એ જ કે નિશ્ચિન જેને આત્માનો ઉપયોગ છે; શાસ્ત્રમાં નથી  
અને સાંભળ્યામાં નથી, છતાં અનુભવમાં આવે તેવું જેનું કથન છે;  
અંતરંગ સ્પૃહા નથી એવી જેની ગુપ્ત આચરણ છે.

એક સત્પુરુષને રાજી કરવામાં, તેની સર્વ ઈચ્છાને પ્રશંસવામાં, તે જ  
સત્ય માનવામાં આખી જિંદગી ગઈ તો ઉત્કૃષ્ટમાં ઉત્કૃષ્ટ પંદર ભવે  
અવશ્ય મોક્ષે જઈશ. ે

શ્રીમદ્ રાજચંદ્ર  
(વચનામૃત પત્રાંક ૭૬ માંથી)



મૈત્રી એટલે સર્વ જગતથી નિર્વેર બુદ્ધિ.  
પ્રમોદ એટલે કોઈ પણ આત્માના ગુણ જોઈ હર્ષ પામવો.  
કરુણા એટલે સંસારતાપથી દુઃખી આત્માના દુઃખથી અનુકંપા પામવી.  
ઉપેક્ષા એટલે નિસ્પૃહભાવે જગતના પ્રતિબંધને વિસારી આત્મહિતમાં  
આવવું.

એ ભાવનાઓ કલ્યાણમય અને પાત્રતા આપનારી છે.

શ્રીમદ્ રાજચંદ્ર  
(વચનામૃત પત્રાંક ૫૭ માંથી)



સૌજન્ય:  
અરવિંદ-પ્રભા પટેલ  
અમીત-રીના: આરવ, આશય, નાવ્યા પટેલ  
રૂપેન પટેલ

હાર્દિક શુભેચ્છા

## Ahan Shah, Age 12, Ex Pathshala Student

### Walking the Jain Path with JCNC

Jai Jinendra, my name is Ahan Shah, and I am 12 years old. As a Pathshala student at the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC), I've learned that Jainism is not just something to practice at the temple, it's something I try to live every day.

The three main Jain values—Ahimsa (non-violence), Anekantavada (many perspectives), and Aparigraha (non-attachment)—have helped me become more aware of my thoughts, actions, and choices. For example, I've become more careful about not hurting insects, wasting food, or speaking negatively about others, and I've also learned to think before I act and to try to understand other people's opinions, even when I don't agree.

JCNC has made this learning fun and meaningful,

because through Pathshala, I've studied the lives of the Tirthankars, Jain symbols, prayers, and stories that help me understand right behavior. During festivals like Paryushan, I take part in Pratikraman and try my best to ask for forgiveness and forgive others, and these experiences make me feel more peaceful and connected to my Jain identity.

What I love most about JCNC is the strong community, because whether it's volunteering, attending events, or just being at the Derasar, I always feel like I belong. JCNC is helping me grow, not just as a student, but as a better human being.

As JCNC celebrates its 25th Anniversary, I'm proud to be part of this special moment, and I hope to keep learning and living by Jain values for many years to come.

“What I love most about JCNC is the strong community, because whether it's volunteering, attending events, or just being at the Derasar, I always feel like *I belong*.”

## Saachi Choradia, Age 12, Pathshala Student

### Pathshala: A Journey of Learning

Pathshala has been an important part of my life and growth. It gave me a space to learn, reflect, and connect with my heritage in a meaningful way. Over the years, it has helped me better understand who I am and how I want to live—with greater awareness, purpose, and thoughtfulness.

My favorite part of in class learning was the stories. From learning about the past lives of Adinath Bhagwan, to learning about the life of Mahavir Swami, these stories were amazing and taught us concepts in different ways.

Some of my most memorable experiences came from the moments when learning extended beyond textbooks and lessons. Exhibition Day was always a highlight of the year. Preparing as a team, sharing what we learned, and seeing the creativity of my peers made those events both exciting and meaningful. They reminded me that learning can be active, expressive, and shared with the community. These moments made learning more engaging and taught me lessons that went far beyond the classroom.

One of the most peaceful experiences

To the derasar which has touched so many hearts and souls including ours,

*Congratulations*

to

**JCNC ON THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



WISH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM -  
SACHIN, ALPITA, PRINA, STUTI GADA AND FAMILY





Dear JCNC Sangh,  
Thank you for being a guiding  
presence throughout our family's  
personal spiritual journey,  
and for being a strong backbone  
to our center, JCGS, in every way.

*Hearty Congratulations*

on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

May the center continue to thrive  
and spread the timeless message of the  
*Tirthankaras* for generations to come.



Warm regards,  
**Myra, Shlok, Parita and Hiren Shah**

the five mahavrats, the meanings behind prayers, and how to apply Jainism to daily life. Through discussions and activities, I became more mindful, compassionate, and connected to my faith. The lessons I learn are never just for the classroom, they are life lessons that

still guide me today.

JCNC has become much more than a temple. It is a part of who I am.

**“The lessons I learn are never just for the classroom, they are life lessons that still guide me today.”**

## **Khushi Shah, Age 11, Pathshala Student**

### **My JCNC Shala & Shree Bhaktamarji Journey!**

**M**y name is Khushi Shah, and I have attended Jain Shala from toddler to fifth grade. I love all my teachers at Derasar because they have taught me how to be a good human being and practice Jain values.

Through my Pathshala, I have learned that Jains visit their special type of temple called Derasar. They worship the souls present in every living being like animals, plants, birds, and humans.

The ‘Agamas’ is our religious text. We proudly celebrate festivals like Paryushana, Diwali, New Year, Ayambil Oli, etc. Jains are vegetarian and they worship animals and every form of life.

I like going to Pathshala, learning about our religion, performing at various cultural events, learning about Jain/vegan food, and most importantly making friends and building a community of Jain friends who will most likely be with me throughout my college journey.

I have been a proud student of Bhaktamarji class as well and learned the entire Bhaktamarji Sutra in this class. The class has taught me the meaning and correct pronunciation of some difficult Sanskrit shlokas. I make my grandparents proud whenever I recite Bhaktamarji Stotra.

Thank you JCNC for all the opportunities and a big “Congratulations” on the 25th anniversary milestone!

**“The class has taught me the meaning and correct pronunciation of some difficult Sanskrit shlokas.”**



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## **Prisha Gandhi, Age 10, Pathshala Student**

### **Journey through Jain Shala JCNC**

**I**n Pathshala, we not only gain and improve our knowledge of Jainism, but also have a fun-filled class with quizzes, games, and Jain values alike. What we learn in Pathshala stays with us for the entirety of our life. As an example, a vow of not doing unnecessary sins is called Anarth Dand Vrat. That's just a preview to what fifth graders learn in Pathshala!

Pathshala helps you keep Jain principles in your heart,

putting you on the path to Moksha.

My teachers Mrs. Atika, Rekha and Jayshree Auntie, have definitely helped me progress throughout this year, so I'm very thankful to them. Mahavir Janma Kalyanak celebration as well as Exhibition Day created memories to cherish throughout our lifetime.

To summarize, my experience as a Jain Shala student is the stepping stone to my life, and I recommend it to kids of all ages. I also express gratitude to teachers, coordinators, and volunteers who create an enriching atmosphere in the temple.

**“My experience as a Jain Shala student is the stepping stone to my life, and I recommend it to kids of all ages.”**

## **Nishi Jain, Ex Pathshala Student**

**M**y time at Pathshala had a profound impact on my life. From a young age, I was drawn to the Hindi language, but it wasn't until I joined Pathshala that I truly began to appreciate its beauty and significance.

Through Pathshala, I not only improved my language skills but also deepened my connection with my family and culture. One of the most meaningful aspects of my Pathshala experience has been the opportunity to connect with my family in India. Being able to communicate with them in their native language has brought us closer together, and I cherish the moments we share watching Hindi movies or discussing Indian news.

My relationship with my grandparents, who speak only Hindi, has been especially enriched by my ability to converse with them in their language.

Pathshala has also had a positive impact on my

academic performance. Learning a second language has enhanced my language learning abilities, making it easier for me to pick up other languages like Spanish and French. This, in turn, has opened up new opportunities for me and given me the confidence to pursue my interests.

But perhaps the most rewarding aspect of my Pathshala experience has been the opportunity to give back as a co-teacher. Seeing my students grow and learn Hindi, and knowing that I am making a difference in their lives, is an incredible feeling. It has also helped me develop my leadership skills and confidence, and I am grateful for the experience.

My time at Pathshala has been a journey of self-discovery and connection. It has helped me connect with my family, understand my culture, and find a passion for teaching. I am grateful for the experience and know that it will continue to shape me in the years to come.

**“My time at Pathshala has been a journey of self-discovery and connection. It has helped me connect with my family, understand my culture, and find a passion for teaching.”**

Join us in honoring the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **JCNC** Temple and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our cherished organization! As we celebrate these milestones, let us embrace unity, peace, love, compassion, and the principle of Ahimsa that bind us together. Your love and support have made these journeys possible. Together, let's cherish our traditions and community.



**Prem - Sandhya, Ankit, Mona, Gavin,  
Sofia, Mohit, Shephali, Lana and Dilan Jain**



संघस्य शक्तिः गणनायाम् न अस्ति । बोधायामेव तस्य महत्त्वं ।  
(*The strength of a Sangh does not lie in numbers, It lies in how many are awakened in awareness*)

**By Adpk Shri Jayeshbhai Khona,**  
*San Francisco Bay Area*

**Pranaam to every heart, every home, and every humble seeker within our JCNC Sangh.**

The JCNC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is more than a celebration, It is a sacred milestone in our collective journey. For me personally, it has been an incredible 24-year blessing to walk hand in hand with this divine Sangh. JCNC has not just been a place I've served—it has been a place that has shaped me. But if I look even deeper...All that I am today, and all that I've been able to give, traces back to a single moment that changed everything.

On **04/04/1989**, I met my Guru, **Pujya Acharya Devesh Shrimad Vijay Bhuvanbhanu Suriji Maharaj Saheb**, who became the main architect of my life. His message didn't just inspire me—it engraved itself into my soul. At a time when I was ready to hold the hands of Jain Dharma as a full-time path, it was his vision, his clarity, and his fire that gave direction to mine. A Guru is not someone who simply gives answers—He is someone who awakens the questions that truly matter. He doesn't just lead us to the light—He shows us that **we are the light**. And through that light, I found purpose here. Through that vision, I found JCNC—not just as a temple, but as a **living Tirth**.

**Ek Lakshya—One Goal—has never just been about rituals. It's about realization.**

And as members of this Sangh, let us remember: we should never be roadblocks to anything great that is destined to take place at JCNC. Instead, we must stand with it, protect it, and uplift it—because that is the legacy we will leave for future generations. What we think, what we say, and how we act—**matters**. If we want to bring change, we must first **become** that change. It's about aligning every thought, every **Seva**, every **Sadhana** with the soul's deepest calling.

This 25-year milestone is not just for photo albums or applause—It is for **reflection, renewal, and a recommitment to our shared path ahead**. Let our Sangh be remembered not just for what it built...But for what it became. Let our youth not only inherit tradition...But embody transformation. Let the world feel that JCNC is not just an address in the Bay Area—It is a **beacon for the world**.

***“We didn't just preserve a tradition— We lit the path for a transformation.”***  
***Ek Lakshya. Ek Chetna. Ek Udaan.***

With folded hands, awakened vision, and infinite gratitude.



# Honoring Our Dedicated Staff and Support Teams

As we celebrate JCNC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we recognize not only the volunteers and leadership who have shaped our path, but also the incredible individuals who work behind the scenes to ensure the temple runs smoothly every day. From spiritual support to facility management, their dedication reflects the very spirit of seva (selfless service). We express our heartfelt gratitude to the employees and partners who have served the JCNC community with devotion, reliability, and care.



## *Shri Harish Gandhi*

Harishbhai joined JCNC in 2020 as Office Administrator and has been a steady and reliable presence ever since. He supports day-to-day operations by managing communications, coordinating logistics, and maintaining records across departments. His efforts have helped streamline financial processes, organize temple documentation, and ensure smooth execution of religious, educational, and private events. Always professional and thoughtful, Harishbhai continues to be a trusted partner to our leadership and volunteers.



## *Shri Virag Shah*

Since becoming Temple Manager in February 2024, Viragbhai has quickly become a cornerstone of JCNC's religious life. He not only mastered rituals from all Jain traditions but also leads pujas, Dhvaj Dand ceremonies, and Bhakti Bhavanas with great devotion. His presence is felt across major community programs such as MJK, Bhasha Day, and Graduation Day. Known for his cooperative spirit and attention to detail, Viragbhai ensures that sacred spaces like the Gabhara, Rang Mandap, and Bhakti Area are always ready to welcome devotees. His reliability and sincere service make him an invaluable asset to JCNC.



## *Shri Alpesh Shah*

Alpeshbhai served as Temple Manager from 2022 to 2024 and continues to support JCNC as a key member for religious knowledge. During his tenure, he strengthened many areas of temple operations and personally secured blessing letters from multiple Acharya Bhagwants during his travel in India. Spiritually, Alpeshbhai has completed two Varshi Taps, 10+ Atthai Taps, Updhan Tap, and several other advanced tapasyas. His commitment to sadhana and community service led JCNC to nominate him as a Tapasvi Ratna for the upcoming JAINA Convention 2025.

## Honoring Our Dedicated Staff and Support Teams



***Shri Mukesh Parikh***

Mukeshbhai served as JCNC’s full-time Temple Manager from 2011 to 2015 and rejoined as part-time support in 2022. He has played a crucial role in training other Temple Managers, passing on best practices and organizational knowledge. Since 2019, Mukeshbhai has also led the kitchen team during Ayambil Oli, helping prepare and serve meals to over 325 tapasvis each weekend. His dedication, work ethic, and community spirit have made a lasting impact on the temple & continue to inspire others.



***Shri Balbir Singh***

Balbirji was JCNC’s caretaker for over 20 years until his retirement in 2020. Known for his humility and deep devotion, he ensured the temple was always clean, functional, and welcoming. He supported countless kitchen and facility operations, often working early mornings and late evenings without complaint. His presence provided comfort and continuity for two decades. We are forever grateful for his quiet strength and service, and we wish him good health and happiness in the years ahead.



***Shri Varinder Singh***

Since 2020, Varinderji has served as a caretaker, supporting all aspects of JCNC’s facility management. His role extends beyond cleaning and maintenance—he actively supports religious, cultural, educational, & private events with a smile and a “Chinta mat karo, ho jayega” attitude. Always ready to help, he has become especially popular among seniors for his kindness and helpful nature. His dedication and positive spirit have become an integral part of JCNC’s daily operations. Fun Fact: Before joining JCNC, Varinderji was a professional Kabaddi player and represented his team in Canada, the UK, and Australia.

### ***Can Plumbing (External Vendor)***

As we reflect on 25 years of JCNC’s journey, we recognize the many behind-the-scenes partners who have quietly supported our operations. We extend a special thanks to Can Plumbing, who has consistently responded to urgent needs across our facility, often offering services at reduced or no cost. Their responsiveness, reliability, and generosity have helped keep JCNC’s infrastructure strong, and we deeply appreciate their partnership and care for our community.

Dear JCNC Family,  
Heartfelt congratulations on 25 remarkable years of nurturing Jain principles and community growth. **JCNC** stands as a beacon of Jain values— **compassion**, and **unity**. We honor the tireless efforts of leaders, volunteers, and devotees who've woven this spiritual sanctuary. May the next 25 years amplify blessings, inspire generations, and deepen our collective journey toward enlightenment.



With heartfelt gratitude,  
**Shubh Shah & Family**  
President, Jain Center Of Greater Sacramento (JCGS)



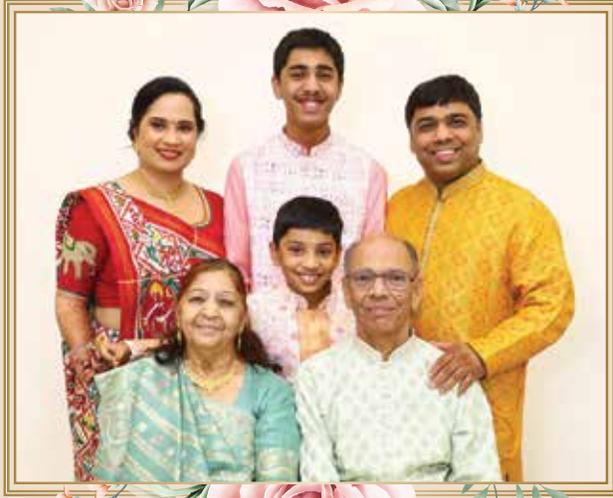


Ramnikbhai and Rasilaben's children (Jayesh, Nilesh and Hetal), spouses (Charu, Sejal and Jason) and grand children (Jainav, Namrata, Ishan, Rohan, Jainam and Ashni) would like to dedicate this photo to Ramnikbhai and Rasilaben Gohel who are both devote members of the Jain Derasar.

Both Rasilaben and Ramnikbhai Gohel have embraced the Jain community from the moment they arrived in 1997, generously offering their time, resources, and active participation in countless pujas and events at the Derasar. Their commitment to ensuring the continued flourishing and growth of the community has been a constant source of inspiration.

For over fifteen years, Ramnikbhai dedicated himself to organizing and running the senior mixer meetings as chairman of the senior mixer. Rasilaben's spiritual devotion shone brightly during her Varsitaap in 2006 and 2007, a significant milestone celebrated with the entire Jain community at the Derasar. Together, Ramnikbhai and Rasilaben have been gracious hosts to numerous religious scholars. They remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve.

**RAMNIK - RASILA GOHEL & FAMILY**

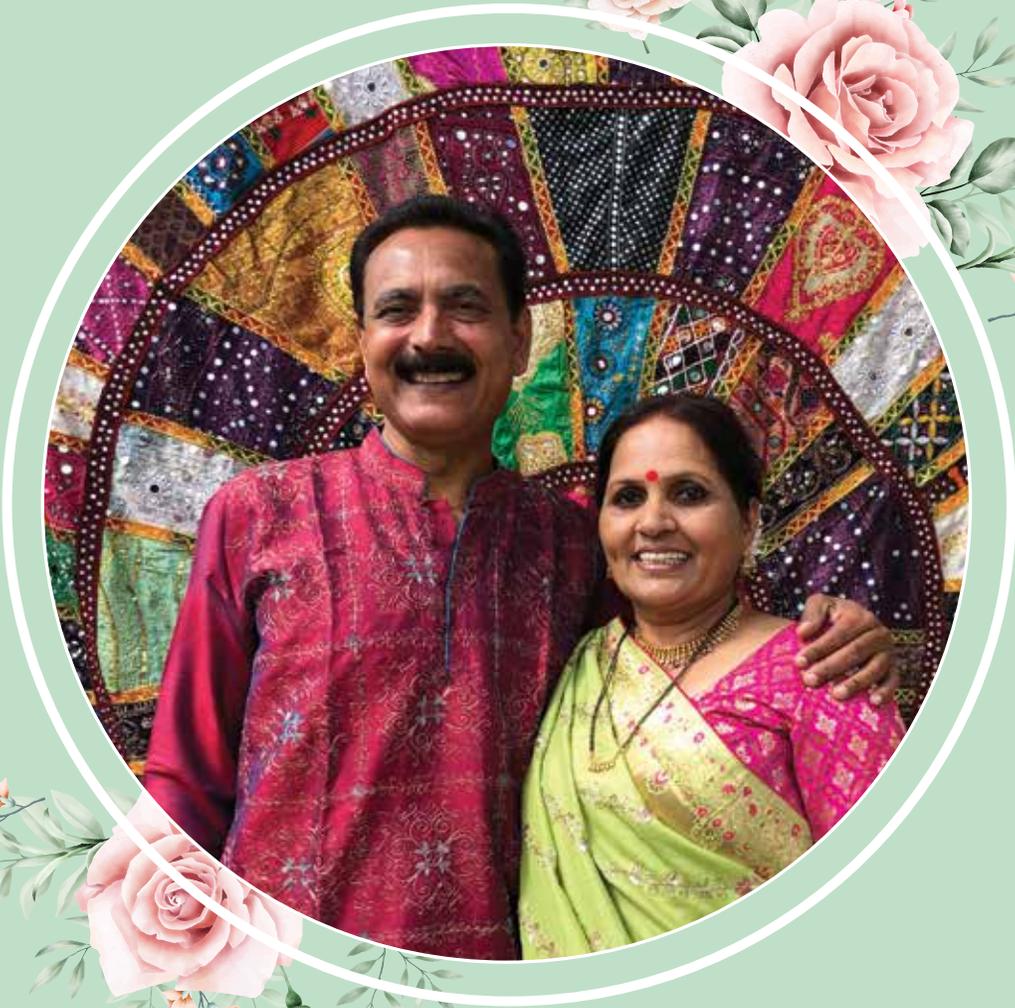


*With Best Compliments*  
*from*  
Mrs. Pravinaben Kritikumar Shah,  
Mrs. Pinal Vishal Shah  
Aarav Shah & Aaryan Shah.



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the  
**Jain Center of Northern California** on the joyous occasion of the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**.  
May the blessings from Jain Tirthankars guide and protect  
this center of peace for years to come.

*Best Wishes*  
**Sharad & Jolly, Sahil, Ronak & Sandini Shah Family**



With

*Best Compliments*

from

*Ajay and Amita Shah*

*Ekta and Josh*

*Avni, Hari and Veer*

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Heartiest Congratulations & Best Wishes  
To  
JCNC for the 25th Anniversary



मीनाक्षी (स्नेहलता) सेठी जो प्रारम्भ से ही JCNC की उन्नति व प्रगति के लिए अग्रसित रही हैं , उनकी परम पुनीत स्मृति में सम्पूर्ण सेठी परिवार JCNC की इस २५ वीं वर्षगाँठ पर अनेकानेक बधाई व शुभकामना करता है कि JCNC सदैव अपने सम्पूर्ण जैन समाज को संघठित करते हुए जैन धर्म का पूर्ण प्रचार प्रसार करता रहे ।

इन्ही पुनित भावनाओं के साथ  
अम्बरीष , प्रतिमा- आमोरी, प्रेरणा-टाईलर, सुमित- पारुल ,  
यशभ- नन्दिता सेठी

## *Celebrating 25 Years of Togetherness with Jain Center of Northern California*

Formed during the Pratishtha Mahotsav of JCNC in 2000, MIBA has grown alongside JCNC—rooted in the same values of community, culture, and compassion. Over the past 25 years, we have shared more than just a heritage—we've built friendships, weathered challenges, celebrated milestones, and stood by each other like family. MIBA's story began right here at JCNC. It was during the temple's early days that a few Marwadi families, connected by culture and language, came together and laid the foundation of what would become MIBA. The Marwadi language served as a powerful common thread—turning conversations into connections and connections into a close-knit community that continues to thrive to this day.

JCNC has always been at the heart of MIBA. As JCNC celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we reflect with gratitude on the journey we've taken together. We've welcomed new generations, mourned the loss of loved ones, and held each other through life's joys and trials. Through it all, MIBA has remained a pillar of strength and belonging. From friendships to family-like bonds, the Marwadi language became the thread that wove us into one fabric—stronger with time.

Here's to the spirit of unity, resilience, and shared values that define us. We are proud to celebrate this milestone with JCNC - and with each other.

*With gratitude and pride,*  
**MIBA – Marwadis in Bay Area**



## Celebrating Twenty-Five Years of JCNC

**We are so blessed with the Divine presence of Jain Temple of Milpitas CA for last 25 years. It has played a pivotal role, as a hub for social and cultural life, community support, learning center and spiritual development. JCNC has been instrumental in preserving and transmitting the Jain rituals, practices and values across generations.**



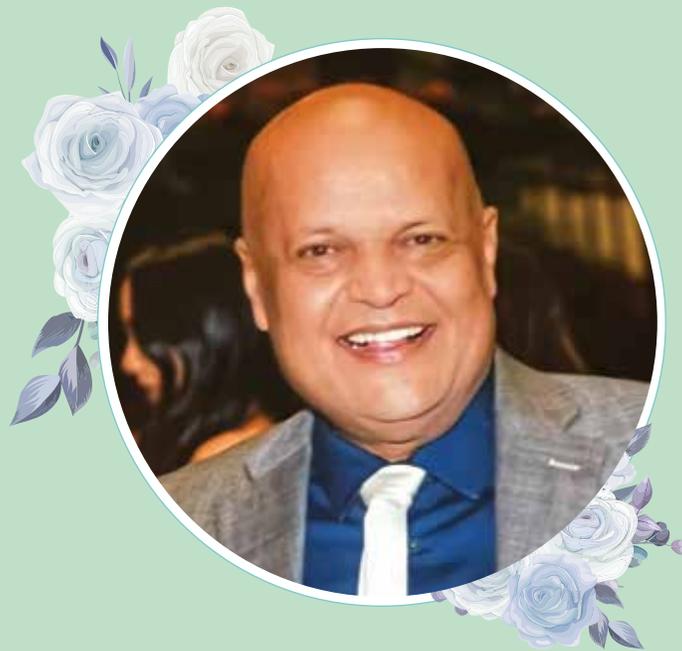
**Deepak & Mina Doshi Family  
Tanya, Nihar, Mina, Roshan, Nina, Deepak**

*Greatland Real Estate  
extends heartfelt congratulations  
on the 25th Anniversary of the JCNC!*

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As you celebrate this significant milestone, let us help you with your real estate goals in the years to come.



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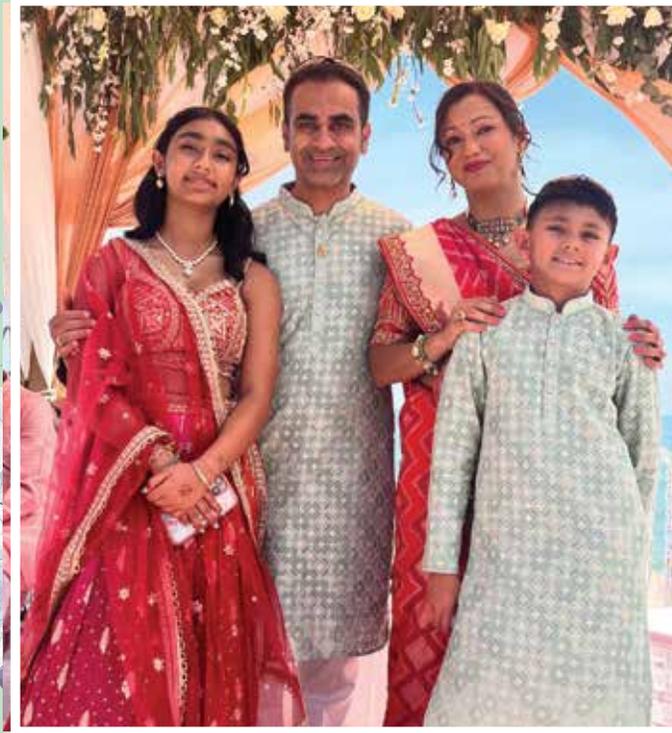
**Email: [manoj@mygreatland.com](mailto:manoj@mygreatland.com)**

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# *Congratulations*

to JCNC on 25 Inspiring Years



*It is with great joy and admiration that we congratulate JCNC on reaching the remarkable milestone of 25 years. Over the past quarter century, JCNC has been a guiding light for the community—steadfastly promoting Jain values, fostering spiritual growth, and uniting generations through seva, wisdom, and compassion.*

*This silver jubilee stands as a testament to the dedication of countless volunteers, leaders, and devotees whose tireless efforts have shaped JCNC into a vibrant spiritual home.*

*May the next 25 years be filled with continued growth, harmony, and inspiration as JCNC continues to lead the path toward liberation and lasting peace.*

**With gratitude and respect,  
Bhavnesht Jasani & Family  
Secretary, Jain Center Of Greater Sacramento (JCGS)**

Dear members, devotees,  
and friends of JCNC



As the Shah Family – **Nisarg, Disha, Naisha, and Rihaan** – we rejoice in celebrating **JCNC's** 25th anniversary, a radiant milestone of spiritual nourishment and compassionate community-building. For 25 years, **JCNC** has been a guiding light, nurturing faith, fostering unity, and inspiring countless lives through the timeless teachings of Jain ideals.

May the *Tirthankaras'* blessings continue to illuminate **JCNC's** path as it embarks on its next chapter. We pray this sacred institution remains a beacon of Lord Mahavira's wisdom, empowering future generations to walk the path of truth and service.

With deepest reverence and warm wishes,  
**Nisarg Shah & Family**  
**Treasurer, Jain Center of Greater Sacramento (JCGS)**

સહજાત્મસ્વરૂપ પરમગુરુ

નં



\*પરમકૃપાળુ દેવના બોધ વચન\*

\*પૂર્વનાં અશુભ કર્મ ઉદય આવ્યે વેદતાં  
જો શોચ કરો છો તો હવે એ પણ ધ્યાન રાખો  
કે નવાં બાંધતા પરિણામે તેવાં તો બંધાતાં નથી?\*

રાજ તારું શરણ ભવ્ય  
જીવોને ભગવન્ત બનાવે



\*પરમકૃપાળુ દેવના બોધ વચન\*

\*આત્માને ઓળખવો હોય તો આત્માના  
પરિચયી થવું, પરવસ્તુના ત્યાગી થવું\*

રાજ તારું શરણ ભવ્ય  
જીવોને ભગવન્ત બનાવે

સૌજન્ય:

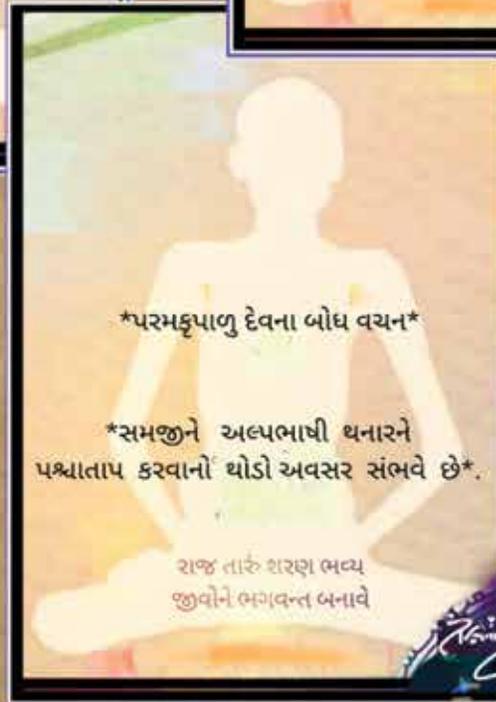
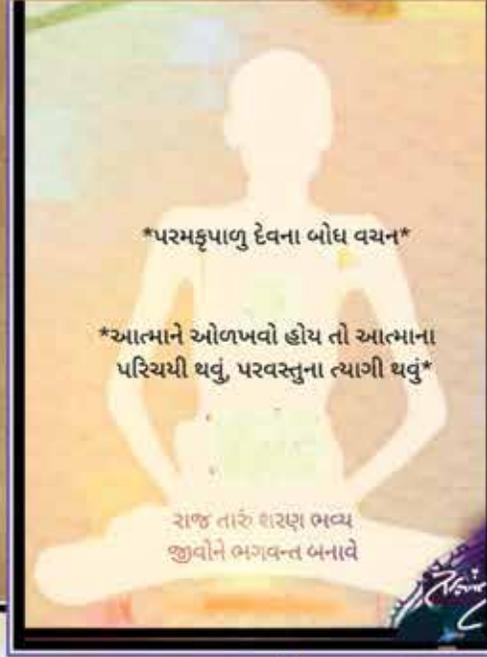
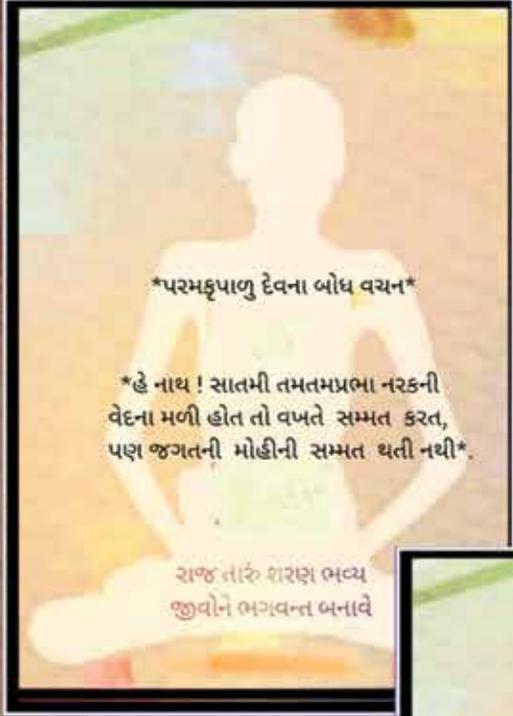
પ્રવીણભાઈ  
હંસાબેન  
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પરિવાર

હાર્દિક શુભેચ્છા

હાર્દિક શુભેચ્છા

25<sup>TH</sup>

JCNC  
રજત જયંતી



સહજાત્મસ્વરૂપ પરમગુરુ



BEST WISHES

સૌજન્ય:  
ભુલાભાઈ પુષ્પાબેન પટેલ  
સલીનાસ, CA

તુજ ચરણોમેં હી મેરી સિદ્ધશીલા હે  
શિષ્યત્વકા અર્થ હૈ

સદગુરુમેં  
ડૂબ જાના

ૐ





**Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington**

**Congratulations to JCNC on  
25th Anniversary!**



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Shikharbandhi Jain Temple  
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*Khub Khub Anumodna*

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Navindra and Madhu Jain & Family (The Jain Foundation)

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Deepak, Mina, Nihar-Tanya, Roshan-Nina Doshi & Family

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Digambar Friends at JCNC

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Harsha and Hasu Shah & Family

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## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sponsors

*Khub Khub Anumadna*

### Prime Swamivatsalya Sponsor - \$7,501

Jayvadan, Tarunika, Dipti, Nita Itchhaporia & Family  
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Viaana, Vinam, Poonam, Viral Shah & Family

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# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Celebration Patrika



25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Anniversary logo designed by  
JCNC Pathshala Student  
*Achana Nahata*



Replica of Jain Temple of Northern California given as a prabhavna to life-time members of JCNC on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Plaque given to JCNC members who served JCNC community from 2000 - 2025

## JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteers - Khub Khub Anumodana

### Religious Team

- **Parag Shah** (*lead*)
- **Nitul Haria** (*co-lead*)

### Religious Core Team

Ami Shah  
Anju Shah  
Ashok Sethi  
Forum Shah  
Jignesh Shah  
Milan Shah  
Praveena Sancheti  
Padmesh Parekh  
Riya Mehta  
Sagar Pasad  
Sudhanshu Jain  
Tareh Parekh  
Vinita Shah

### Religious EC RC Members

Ashok Sethi  
Hardik Desai  
Milan Shah  
Paras Samsukha  
Praveena Sancheti  
Raj Patel  
Sagar Pasad  
Sanjay Patel  
Sudhanshu Jain  
Tareh Parekh  
Yash Doshi

### Decor Team

Aangi Shah  
Aarohi Shah  
Aeva Shah  
Alka Mehta  
Alpa Gosar  
Ariha Gandhi  
Aswin Jain  
Avani  
Ankit Jain  
Ayush Jain  
Beena Doshi

Bhavna Shah  
Julie Shah  
Binal Shah  
Biren Shah  
Brijesh Shah  
Bhavin Shah  
Dayaben Shah  
Deshna Desai  
Dhara Parekh  
Dhruvin Timadia  
Harsh Shah  
Heer Shah  
Himani Shah  
Hiral Pasad  
Hiya Doshi  
Ihita Shah  
Jaideep Shah  
Jaimin Shah  
Jainam Shah  
Jash Shah  
Jia Shah  
Jinang Shah  
Kashish Kitawat  
Kavita Shah  
Kewal Shah  
Khushi Shah  
Kinjal Parikh  
Kinjal Shah  
Kirtika Doshi  
Kyra Parekh  
Mahen Gosar  
Meena Shah  
Moksh Shah  
Nairit Shah  
Naitik Shah  
Nilesh Shah  
Nirvaan Tanna  
Nirvy Mistry  
Noam Kothari  
Padmesh Parekh  
Palak Shah  
Param Parekh  
Parth Kamdar  
Paritosh Bora  
Prakshal

Pooja Shah  
Poonam Gajaria  
Preethi  
Praveena Sancheti  
Rashi Haria  
Rimpal Shah  
Risha Jain  
Rohit Shah  
Ruchi Haria  
Sagar Pasad  
Sandip Shah  
Sangita Shah  
Sanvi Shah  
Shailesh Shah  
Sheel Shah  
Shubham Shah  
Siddhi Kitawat  
Soor Vora  
Sonal Nagda  
Suvritti Vora  
Swati Haria  
Sweety Shah  
Shlok Patani  
Vaibhavi Chokshi  
Veer Mistry  
Vijay Shah  
Vimal Shah  
Yash Parikh  
Yogita Jain

### Decor Logistics

Jayesh Jain  
Jignesh Shah  
Gautam Mehta  
Paras Gandhi

### Mandla

Aeva Shah  
Ami Shah  
Aayushi Shah  
Binal Shah  
Divya Benara  
Forum Shah  
Ihita Shah  
Jolly Shah

## JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteers - Khub Khub Anumodana

Ruchi Haria  
Shivangi Shah  
Shweta Bagadia  
Shreya Shah  
Varsha Shah

### Aangi

Aangi Shah  
Aayushi Shah  
Aeva Shah  
Ami Shah  
Amit Jain  
Amit Nahata  
Bhavya Chhadva  
Binal Shah  
Chandra Vora  
Danvi Shah  
Devanshee Shah  
Deshna Shah  
Diya  
Forum Shah  
Harsh Shah  
Harshil Shah  
Jaideep Shah  
Jaina Shah  
Jainam Shah  
Kashish Kitawat  
Kavya Jain  
Keyur Doshi  
Kinjal Shah  
Lipi Shah  
Minal Nahata  
Naitik Shah  
Neha Jain  
Nikhil Shah  
Niyati Parikh  
Nivam Shah  
Nivi Shah  
Param Jain  
Paritosh Bora  
Pooja Shah  
Priyanshi Shah (Rangoli)  
Romil V Shah  
Saloni Jain  
Siddhi Kitawat

Shubham Shah  
Trupti Patwa  
Vidhi Sanghavi  
Vimal Shah  
Yash Shah  
Yash Parikh

### Vidhaan

Arinjay Jain  
Arvind Jain  
Nanda Sethi  
Neelu Jain  
Rachana Jain  
Rekha Sethi  
Rita Shah

### Poojan

Alka Mehta  
Alpesh Shah  
Ankita Jain  
Bansi Modi  
Bharti Mehta  
Darshil Gala  
Dhara Parekh  
Dhrumil Shah  
Harsha Parikh  
Hemisha Shah  
Henna Timbadia  
Hiral Pasad  
Hridhaan Shah  
Jaini Shah  
Jigna Shah  
Jignesh Shah  
Jinam Shah  
Khushi  
Krunal Shah  
Mahima Teegala  
Meena Shah  
Milan Shah  
Nita Vaishnav  
Nivi Shah  
Nimesh Parekh  
Nysa Vora  
Rahul Sheth  
Riya Mehta

Rupa Ajmera  
Sagar Pasad  
Santosh Teegala  
Sheel Shah  
Tejal Patel  
Sarika Shah  
Trisha Jain  
Trupti Jain  
Tweesha Shah  
Vatsal Shah

### Extended

Alpesh Shah  
Ankita Jain  
Avinash Jain  
Mukesh Parikh  
Priyam Tated  
Virag Shah

### Food Team

- **Mala Chaudhari** (*lead*)
- **Mihir Doctor** (*co-lead*)

### Food Leads

Giriraj Jain  
Sahil Shah  
Umesh Sagar  
Pravin Turakhia  
Bipin Nepani  
Mukesh Parikh  
Harsha Parikh  
Chandra ben  
Indori Group  
MIBA Group  
Kutch Valley  
JCIG Group  
Kitchen Kings

### Inventory

Mihir Doctor  
Ravi Shah  
Rajiv Jain  
Giriraj Jain  
Vijay Chopra  
Amit Jain

## JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteers - Khub Khub Anumodana

Jini Shah

### Extended

Ajay Lunawat  
Ankur Avlani  
Biren K Shah  
Brijesh K Shah  
Dhyanesh Bagadia  
Hetan Shah  
Mehul Shah  
Mukul  
Neeraj  
Nirav Shah  
Nishant Sabadra  
Pradeep Bardia  
Puneet Jain  
Shailesh

### Media/PR Team

- **Biren Shah** (*lead*)
- **Vipul Kothari** (*co-lead*)

### Souvenir

Rachana Jain  
Deepak Shah  
Nayan Jain  
Pravin Turakhia

### Extended

Rajesh Shah  
Rasesh Shah  
Nayan Jain  
Kirit Bavishi  
Niranjan Patel  
Mahendra Tated  
Sharad Dadbhawala  
Biren K Shah  
Brijesh Shah  
Khushi Shah  
Vrusthi Desai  
Aahana Nahata  
Aparna Shah  
Darshan Shah  
Jayashree Shah

Pinal Shah  
Rakesh Jain  
Rupal Ghelani  
Sapni Bhavsar  
Vinod Lodha

### Social Media

Pooja Kothari  
Yash Shah  
Darshan Shah  
Hasmukh Shah

### Cultural Team

- **Kamalesh Jain** (*lead*)
- **Sanket Shah** (*co-lead*)

### Cultural Core Team

Jaina Shah  
Jenish Shah  
Jigar Mehta  
Nikunj Mehta  
Niyati Shah  
Pooja Kothari  
Riddhi Shah  
Sharad Dadbhawala  
Sunil Ranka  
Kirit Bavishi

### Shobha Yatra Core Team

Nikunj Mehta  
Jigar Mehta  
Vinod Baya  
Ajay Lunawat  
Suhas Mehta

### Aastha Ek Shakti Core Team

Niyati Shah  
Sharad Dadbhawala  
Pooja Kothari  
Amit Pawar  
Vibha Vora  
Jigar Mehta  
Chintan Shah  
Jignesh S  
Bhavnes Shah

### Shobha Yatra Team

Anju Shah  
Charu Jain  
Darshan Shah  
Dhruven Shah  
Divya Tated  
Garima Lunawat  
Harshal Dedhia  
Hemangi Jain  
Jaideep Shah  
Jyoti Vora  
Komal Shah  
Kunjali Shah  
Mahak Bandi  
Mahendra Jain  
Mahima Mutha Teegala  
Naitik Shah  
Ajay Shah  
Dr Rushabh Shah  
Rushabh Shah  
Neeren Jain  
Nimish Shah  
Phagun Baya  
Prakash Sharma  
Pratham Tated  
Pratibha Mehta  
Rachana Jain  
Rohit Jindal  
Romil Gandhi  
Sapan Bandi  
Unnati Shah  
Vidhi Sanghvi  
Dhruvil Shah  
Jhanvi Shah  
Prakshal Doshi  
Anuj Shah  
Harlik Shah  
Rushabh Shah  
Sangita Lunawat  
Tarang Lunawat  
Vinod Lodha  
Hemant Shah  
Rohit Jindal  
Harshad Shah  
Anita Shah

## JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteers - Khub Khub Anumodana

Neeta Tated  
Ameeta Shah  
Nikki Shah  
Hisha Shah  
Ravendra Raghvendra  
Poonam Gala  
Akshesh Shah  
Adi Shah  
Hasmukh Patel  
Dhruven Shah

### Senior Team

Anju Shah  
Chandra Vora  
Harsha Doshi  
Kirit Bavishi  
Kirtida Bavishi  
Meena Mehta  
Pushpa Kochar  
Shilpa Shah  
Vibha Vora

### Aastha Ek Shakti Team

Aarohi  
Aesha Sanghavi  
Akshay Jain  
Amruta Mehta  
Anshu Jain  
Astha  
Avni S Vora  
Avni Vora  
Binal Shah  
Chandan Mehta  
Chintan  
Darshana  
Dashana  
Deepak  
Deval Milan Shah  
Dhruvin Shah  
Dhvani  
Dhyanvi  
Divya  
Ekta Vora  
Gautam Mehta  
Harlik Shah

Jaee Shah  
Jaina Parikh  
Jenish Shah  
Kavita Gandhi  
Kavita Sanghvi  
Kavita Tamboli  
Kinjal Shah  
Komal Shah  
Kosha Gandhi  
Kush  
Lajvanti  
Lipi  
Meemansa  
Meemansa Gandhi  
Milan  
Mittal Kothari  
Monika Shah  
Neha Shah  
Neha Vora  
Nikita Shah  
Nirali Vora  
Nirvi Shah  
Niyati Shah  
Palak Modi  
Parin Shah  
Parita Parekh  
Payal Mehta  
Pooja  
Pooja Gandhi  
Pooja Mittal Kothari  
Poonam Shah  
Pratibha Mehta  
Preetesh Parikh  
Prerna Jain  
Rakshita Jain  
Reemu Mehta  
Riddhi Shah  
Rinku Ranka  
Ritesh Patni  
Riya Metha  
Romil Gandhi  
Ruchita Jain  
Rujul  
Rupal Patani  
Rushika Shah

Sandeep Gandhi  
Sharlik Shah  
Sharmila  
Sonali Jain  
Sourabh Oswal  
Sumedha Shah  
Tanya Jain  
Taresh  
Tweesha  
Varsha Shah  
Varuni Jain  
Vishal Shah  
Yash Veera  
Yash Vora  
Yojana Choradia  
Chintan Shah  
Jignesh S  
Bhavnesha Shah  
Jigar Mehta

### Ek Lakshya Team

Aadi Shah  
Aakarsh Mehta  
Akshay Shah  
Aman Savani  
Ami Shah  
Aniket Sanghavi  
Ankit Bhimani  
Ankit Shah  
Astha Shreeshreemal  
Aswin Shreemal  
Avani Shah  
Ayush Jain  
Bansari Shah  
Bhavna Sandip Shah  
Chand Mehta  
Chandani Chordiya  
Chandni Shah  
Charmy Shah  
Chirag Shah  
Damn timer Jain  
Darshil Gala  
Darshit Timbadiya  
Deepak Sisodia  
Deesha Shah

## JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteers - Khub Khub Anumodana

Dharmik Shah  
Dhaval  
Dhruvi Shah  
Dhruvik Mehta  
Diksha Munot  
Dimple Shah  
Divya Benara  
Divya Shah  
Divya Tated  
Divya Vijayasekar  
Esha Ajmera  
Gaurav Gogri  
Geeta Shreeshreemal  
Hardik Shah  
Harsh Zota  
Harshil Shah  
Himanshu Shah  
Hiral Pasad  
Hirva Shah  
Hitansh Kothari  
Jaina  
Jainam Mehta  
Jainam Parikh  
Jay N. Shah  
Jeesha Teegala  
Jinal Shah  
Jyoti Vora  
Kailash Kothari  
Kaivan Sanghvi  
Karan Chheda  
Karan Kothari  
Kartik Shah  
Kaushil Shah  
Kavita Gala Patel  
Kevin Shah  
Keyan Modi  
Keyur Doshi  
Khushbu Shah  
Kinjal Shah  
Krati Salgia  
Krutika Gulvady  
Kulwant Badala  
Kunal Bavishi  
Kush Kothari  
Madhurika Sanghavi

Mahima Teegala  
Manal Shah  
Mansi Shah  
Maulik Bavishi  
Meena Doshi  
Meena Shah  
Meenaben Shah  
Meenal Jain  
Meghana Pancholi  
Mehul Ajmera  
Mihir Shah  
Moxali Shah  
Naisargi Doshi  
Naitik Shah  
Naman Gala  
Neeraj Jain  
Nemish Sarvaiya  
Nemish Vora  
Nileshbhai Shah  
Nirav Shah  
Nisarg Shah  
Paras  
Parth Kamdar  
Paxshal Mehta  
Payal Bavishi  
Pinank Gogri  
Pooja Shah  
Prashant Jain  
Pratham Tated  
Priyanka Kothari  
Priyanshi Shah  
Rachana Shah  
Rahul Kothari  
Rajul Chhajjer  
Rakhi Gandhi  
Reena Khinvasara  
Riken Shah  
Ritesh Lodha  
Ritika Shah  
Romil Shah  
Ruchi Haria  
Ruchi Jain  
Rushabh Sanghavi  
Rushit Gandhi  
Rutvi Gogri

Sagar Pasad  
Saloni Jain  
Samveg Shah  
Sandip Shah  
Sanket Mehta  
Sanket Shah  
Savita Badala  
Sejal Dedhia  
Shirish Bavishi  
Shreyansh Gandhi  
Sneha Jain  
Soor Vora  
Sreeparvathi Nambiar  
Stuti Shah  
Subhashree Shah  
Sahas Mehta  
Sushil Munot  
Sweny Shah  
Swetha Shah  
Taral Shah  
Tejas Shah  
Tithi Gala  
Uma Turakhia  
Unnati Shah  
Vaibhav Shah  
Vidhi Sanghavi  
Vidhi Vora  
Vidya Jain  
Virag Shah  
Viragi  
Vishal Bavishi  
Yash Shah  
Yashvi Shah  
Yogita Jain

### Technology Team

- **Jinesh Gandhi** (lead)
- **Aadi Shah** (co-lead)

### Core Team

Akshay Kochar  
Chintan Shah  
Rishi Raj Jain  
Roopal Jain

## JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteers - Khub Khub Anumodana

Ronak Shah

### Audio

Kunal Bavishi  
Kunal Shah  
Nemish Shah  
Nitul Haria  
Parin Shah  
Soumil Jain

### Stage Crew

Ashna Jain  
Astha Shreeshreemal  
Chirag Shah  
Christopher McMurry  
Meera Shah  
Nidhi Shah  
Skyler Giammona  
Somil Sancheti  
Srinidhi Madur  
Vraj Bhavsar

### Photo/Video

Anuj Shah  
Bhavesh Chheda  
Hasmukh Patel  
Jainam Parikh  
Manav Hirani  
Mansi Shah  
Maulik Shah  
Nikesh Shah  
Pranav Mehta  
Romil Gandhi  
Ruchit Shah  
Santosh Golecha  
Yash Doshi

### Networking

Nilesh Doshi  
Ritika Mehta  
Ronak Shah  
Sreekant G

### Facility Team

- **Bhavin Shah** (*lead*)
- **Yash Veera** (*co-lead*)

### Lighting

Ronak Shah  
Yatrik Mehta  
Aadi Shah  
Krish Shah  
Devansh Sanghvi  
Yash Parikh  
Roopal Jain

### Parking

Rahul Gala  
Smit Savla  
Mihir Gada  
Kailash Kothari  
Deepak Gautham  
Monil Gandhi  
Peeyush Jain  
Twisha Shah  
Shweta Shah  
Bhavya Vira  
Kewal Shah

### Extended

Hasmukh Patel  
Rajiv Jain  
Sarin Mehta  
Jay Shah  
Rajendra Shah  
Biren Shah  
Brijesh Shah

### Staff

Harish Gandhi  
Varinder Singh

### Youth Volunteers

Avir Shah  
Aarush Shah  
Hridhaan Shah  
Jinay Bagadia

Keev Vora

Neev Vora

### Fundraising Team

- **Yogesh Bapna** (*lead*)
- **Sharad Shah** (*co-lead*)

### Fundraising Team

Dhruvin Shah  
Milan Shah  
Biren Shah  
Nitish Shah  
Mittal Kothari

### Finance Team

- **Jayesh Jain** (*lead*)
- **Nirav Shah** (*co-lead*)

### Extended Team

Hemal Shah  
Harish Gandhi

### Education Team

- **Miloni Modi** (*lead*)
- **Mirav Kapadia** (*co-lead*)

### Participants

Aadhya Shah  
Aahana Nahata  
Aanshi Shah  
Aariha Gandhi  
Aarna Shah  
Aarvi Jain  
Ahaana Jain  
Iyaana Jain  
Jiyana Kochar  
Kaira Parekh  
Kaira Patel  
Kavisha Shah  
Keev Vora  
Kiyansh Shah  
Mishka Jain  
Neev Vora

## JCNC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteers - Khub Khub Anumodana

Neev Vora Pamnani  
Noam Kothari  
Nysa Dagli  
Parv Shah  
Prisha Chandaliya  
Prisha Shah  
Riaan Shah  
Riaan Vora Pamnani  
Risha Jain  
Roohi Banthia  
Rushabh Gandhi  
Saarth Ranka  
Sanvi Shah  
Shanaya Patel  
Siya Dagli  
Soumil Shah  
Tashi Doshi  
Ved Shah  
Viona Solanki  
Zara Shah

### YJA Program

Priyam Tated  
Rushabh Shah  
Kanvi

### Chabot Day

#### Core Team

Jayesh Jain  
Rachana Jain  
Akshay Jain  
Jenish Shah  
Kamalesh Jain  
Hasmukh Patel  
Aadi Shah  
Jinesh Gandhi  
Akshay Kochar  
Biren Shah  
Deven Shah  
Giriraj Jain  
Mala Chaudhary  
Nishant Sabadra  
Sahil Shah  
Sanket Shah

Sharad Dadbhawala  
Nitul Haria  
Parag Shah  
Vipul Kothari  
Yash Veera  
Chintan Shah

### Registration Desk

Parv Jain  
Kriti Jain  
Uttam Rathod  
Krisha Rathod  
Mahi Rathod  
Aditya Mehta  
Ekta Mehta  
Jinam Shah  
Shaarav Jain  
Kavisha Shah  
Sonali Loonawat  
Rinku Ranka  
Nikita Nepani

### PVSA Team

- **Sunil Mehta** (*lead*)
- **Prasanna S.** (*co-lead*)

### Volunteers

Aarav Shah  
Aarohi Shah  
Akshara Jain  
Akshay Shah  
Alisha Shah  
Anant Bhautik Doshi  
Anjali Golecha  
Annika Bardia  
Arham Desai  
Arham Shah  
Ariha Shah  
Arjun Ranavat  
Arush Shah  
Aryaa Mehta  
Asher Mehta  
Avyan Sethi  
Ayan Khasgiwala

Deepam Kapadia  
Dhara Parekh  
Dhyan Mehta  
Divisha Jain  
Henna Timbadia  
Isha Parikh  
Janvi Parmar  
Jeevya Jain  
Kanak Parekh  
Kanish Shah  
Kavisha Shah  
Khushi Siroya  
Khushi Solanki  
Kriya Shanmuganathan  
Mehaavi Shah  
Moksh Shah  
Naisha Vora  
Neev Shah  
Nirvaan Tanna  
Nishka Nepani  
Nivi Shah  
Om Milap Sheth  
Omie Lodha  
Prisha Ghelani  
Resha Jain  
Reya Dand  
Reya Doctor  
Reyansh Gala  
Reyna Mehta  
Riana Jain  
Risha Jain  
Rishik Sabadra  
Rohan Samdadiya  
Ronin Mehta  
Sanchi Sethia  
Sara Doshi  
Saumya Shah  
Shaarav Jain  
Shaina Bakliwal  
Shlok Patani  
Siddhi Mehta  
Siya Desai  
Sohan Shah  
Yashvi Jain



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री  
Prime Minister  
MESSAGE

Greetings and heartiest congratulations to the Jain Center of Northern California for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jain Temple at Milpitas. This occasion is a celebration of institutional progress - that also reflects the vision, dedication and collective spirit of the community that nurtured it.

Jainism, with its emphasis on *Ahimsa*, *Aparigraha* and *Anekantavada*, offers a sublime way of living, rooted in empathy, sustainability and pluralism. It is heartening to see that through institutions like the Jain Center of Northern California, such noble ideals continue to find new relevance and resonance globally.

Today, the Jain Center is a vibrant hub for spiritual, cultural and community engagement. By bringing people together, the temple offers a sense of unity while preserving the richness of diversity. It reflects the strength of shared values and the quiet perseverance with which the Jain community has built bridges across generations and geographies.

India is proud of its diaspora and the Jain community abroad holds a special place in this journey. Whether in the field of enterprise, academia or social service, Indians settled across the world have become ambassadors of our values, showcasing through their conduct the power of simplicity, acceptance of diversity and cooperation. In an era marked by rapid change, the foundations of Jain thought serve as a gentle yet profound guide for people worldwide.

This celebration comes at a time when India is moving towards realising its national vision of building a *Viksit Bharat* by 2047, where *Vikas* and *Virasat* walk together in harmony. As we move towards this milestone, we are taking firm steps to make our ancient value systems more accessible, especially to the youth. Be it through redevelopment of spiritual centres, honouring spiritual leaders, or the recognition of ancient languages like Prakrit and Pali as classical languages, we are working to ensure that the wisdom of our past becomes the strength of our future.

Best wishes to all members, volunteers and spiritual leaders associated with JCNC and the Jain temple.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi

श्रावण 01, शक संवत् 1947

July 23, 2025

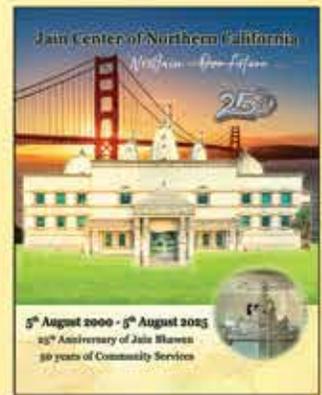
# Designing the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Book: A Journey of Community and Creativity

- Rachana Jain



Designing the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Book for our temple has been one of the most meaningful and fulfilling creative experiences of my life. This project was more than just layout, fonts, and colors - it was about capturing the essence of our temple's history, values, and the people who have built this community over the past 25 years. Every page reflects the love, effort, and memories contributed by hundreds of families and volunteers who have shaped this journey. As a designer, my goal was to create something timeless, respectful of our traditions, and celebratory of how far we've come.

The cover page concept emerged from a deep reflection on where we are and who we've become. Nestled in the heart of Silicon Valley - a global hub of innovation, speed and technology - our temple has served as an anchor, a spiritual grounding for so many of us. It has brought people together from all corners of the Bay Area and offered not only a place of worship, but also a sense of belonging, culture, and community. The design combines subtle visual cues from the tech world with vibrant, traditional Indian aesthetics, symbolizing how we've stayed rooted in our values while navigating a modern world. It's a reminder that amidst the fast-paced environment we live in, we are united by something deeper and timeless.



Throughout the process, I received countless edit requests, last-minute additions, and creative ideas from our vibrant community. While it was overwhelming at times, it was also heartwarming to witness everyone's eagerness to be part of this milestone. I did my best to honor each request while staying true to the overall design vision. The Editor and the entire souvenir team gave me full freedom and discretion in the design aspects & very receptive to design ideas and visualization. Each advertisement, message, and layout was treated with care, knowing that it held personal meaning for someone.

This book is not just a souvenir - it's a reflection of who we are. It honors our journey, celebrates our achievements, and preserves the values that continue to guide us. I feel incredibly grateful to have played a part in this special project and I hope every reader finds joy, pride and connection within this souvenir.

Jai Jinendra.



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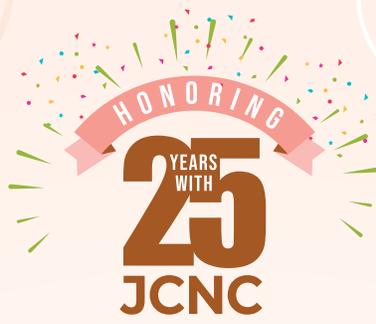
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*JCNC has been at the heart of our family for 25 years shaping our values, friendships, identity, and deep sense of belonging. We are grateful for the memories, the community, and the lasting connections. Wishing the JCNC Sangh and our community continued growth, unity, and shared joy for generations to come.*

*Jai Jinendra*



**Smt. Vimala Sampatrajji Ranka**

**Rinku - Sunil  
Saarth - Samvi  
& Ranka Family**

California(USA) / Mumbai / Bali (Raj.)

