

JAINA and JEIS Organized :
**International Center of
Jainism and Science**



**D-28, Panchsheel Enclave
New Delhi - 110 017
India
shuganjain1941@gmail.com**

Executive Director
Prof. Anupam Jain
"Gyan Chhaya"
D-14, Sundamanagar
Indore (M.P.) - 452 009
anupamjain3@rediffmail.com



JAINA/ALC Directors
Pankaj K. Shah
Boston (U.S.A.)
magnuseng@comcast.net

Dr. Manoj Jain
(U.S.A.)
mjainmdl@gmail.com



Principal Administrator
Dr. Shugan Jain
New Delhi

December 30th, 2021

Subject: International Symposium on the Dating of Nirvan of Mahavirswami

Dear Scholars:

You are invited to participate in the subject historic symposium.

It is interesting to note that different Indian (Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist) and international scholars and historians have mentioned different years for the birth and nirvan of Tirthankar Mahavir Swami. It is essential that a detailed and comprehensive research project be conducted to resolve this issue.

It is generally accepted that Mahavir Swami was born in North Eastern region of India. However, there are different opinions in the history books and in the Jain scriptures with regard to the accurate location where he was born.

This study needs to be performed by different scholars in various fields. The following is a list of different fields relevant to this area of research:

1. Indian History (non-Jain) scholars: These scholars have a broad knowledge of the kings, kingdoms, and other historic personalities of the period between 1000 BC – 400 BC.
2. Jain Svetambar Scholars: These scholars have knowledge of the ancient Svetambar scriptures and their writers. The goal is to see if the scripture writers left any clues with regard to the period the Tirthankars lived.
3. Jain Digambar Scholars: These scholars have knowledge of the Digambar sect ancient scriptures and their writers. The goal is to see if the scripture writers left any clues with regard to the time frame in which the Tirthankars lived.
4. Western Historians and Scholars: There are history scholars who have the knowledge of the ancient Jain scriptures and their writers. The goal is to investigate what dates they support and what reference materials they may have used.
5. Astronomy Scholars: These are the Jain scholars who will research all ancient Jain scriptures to look for some astronomical phenomenon such as several types of conjunctions of planets, Nakshatras, comets, the Sun, and the Moon. They will also research other astronomical phenomenon such as solar and lunar eclipses which might have occurred during the lives of the 23rd and 24th tirthankaras. These clues may help in dating the 24th and 23rd Tirthankars using modern astronomy tools.

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- Scholar of Religions: These scholars are expected to have a balanced knowledge of Indian history along with Jain and Buddhist religions. Note that in many universities the same scholar offers courses in both religions.

we are delighted to provide the following books/papers to the first 20 scholars who are seriously considering writing an abstract and a paper. These material will serve as general familiarity of this topic and also as sources of original references. However, we discourage use of these materials directly as references.

- The Jaina Sources of The History of Ancient India: A book by Jyoti Prasad Jain
- History of Jainism in Hindi: Vol I, II and III, by Kailas Chandra Jain
- A binder containing copies of selected relevant papers of the subject matter

We, hereby, request that if you would like to receive them, please provide us your mailing address where we can ship them.

We request you to select a subject of your research paper and submit the initial 250 to 400 words abstract to us no later than **31st January 2022**. We are happy to announce that **YOU MAY SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACTS and PAPERS IN ENGLISH OR ANY INDIAN LANGUAGE**. Any abstract and/or paper not written in English **MUST** be submitted in Unicode format.

Please note that we will offer travel expenses within India for selected authors and the spouses to Pune and with full hospitality at Pune and Naval Veerayatan. In addition, we will offer **11,000 INR honorarium** to all the scholars whose papers are approved for the presentation at the symposium.

If you have any question, please email us at magnuseng@comcast.net.

Thank you.

Pankaj Shah JCGB	Mukesh Doshi JCMC	Sulekh Jain JAINA ALC Chair	Shugan Jain Chief ICJS New Delhi
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Project Organization

<u>Symposium Committee:</u> Pankajkumar Shah, Boston, USA Dr. Mukesh Doshi, Chicago, USA Dr. Sulekh Jain, Las Vegas, USA Dr. Shugan Jain, New Delhi, India Dr. Anupam Jain, Indore, India Dr. Manoj Jain, Emory Univ. USA Dr. Sharmila Oswal, Pune India	Sir John Templeton Foundation International School for Jain Studies (ISJS) Jain Center of Greater Boston (JCGB) Haresh Tamboli, Boston, President	JAINA Mahesh Wadher President JAINA-Academic Liaison Committee Dr. Sulekh Jain
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