



We Jointly Create

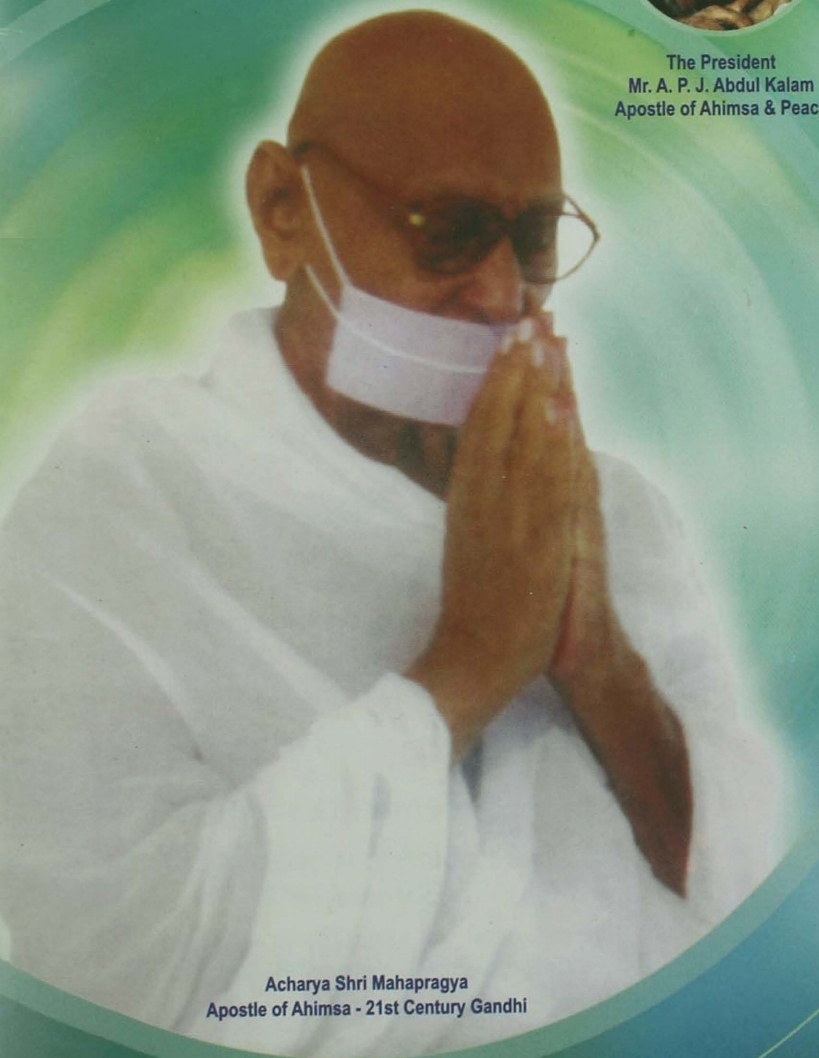
Ahimsa World

Volume :1 No. 2

January 2004



The President
Mr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
Apostle of Ahimsa & Peace



Acharya Shri Mahapragya
Apostle of Ahimsa - 21st Century Gandhi

Peace Prayer

*"Oh Almighty, create thoughts and actions
in the minds of the people of the nation
so that they live united.*

*Oh Almighty, bless the people to take
a path of life with righteousness
as righteousness gives the strength
of character.*

*Help all religious leaders of the country
to give strength to the people to combat
the divisive forces.*

*Guide the people to develop an attitude
to appreciate different viewpoints and ways
of lives and transform enmity among
individuals, organizations and nations,
into friendliness and harmony.*

*Embed the thought
'Nation is bigger than the Individual'
in the minds of the leaders and people.*

*Oh God, bless the people to work
with perseverance to transform the country
into a peaceful and prosperous nation."*

CHETANA KHEL MELA

Nation's unique yearly event organized for the Sport's Awareness. 5000+ students participate for 500+ medals in 12 events.

Sports Organizing

MAHE RAMZAN

A T.V. Serial on The Teachings of The Holy Kuran in 30 episodes for the month of Ramzan.

Religious Harmony

"JAIN GAURAV" ALANKARAN

An yearly award Through Bharat Jain Mahamandal to the person whose work and creation enlightened Jainism.

Social Recognition

PARIVARIK VIVAH

A Marriage Reform concept for all class of Society.

CHETANYA KASYAP FOUNDATION

Dedicated NGO for Religious Harmony, Life Science, Sports and Education

Social Reformation

JEEVAN VIGYAN

Moral Education

Facilitating Moral education "Jeevan Vigyan" 3 Three District of M. P.

KASYAP VIDYAPITH**Co-Sponsorer**

Higher Secondary English Medium School (CBSE) in rural area at Chetanya Gram, Badnawar-run by Ashok Kumar Kasyap Jain Trust.

Education

SCHOLARSHIP

Engineering and Medical education. Full financial support to needy Jain student through A. B. Shri Rajendra Jain Navyuvak Parishad.

Social Upliftment

LOK-NITI VIDYAPEETH**Proposed**

An institution to educate and train political, community, professional, youth and socio-religious leadership for better governance to strengthen the democratic arrangement.

Leadership Development

चेतना

(हिन्दी दैनिक)

A Popular Hindi Daily of M. P.



KASYAP
Sweetners Limited

India's Largest manufacturer of Sorbitol 70%

Head Office : 10, Marthanda, 84, Dr. A. B. Road, Worli Naka, Mumbai - 400 018.

☎ 24955501(3 Lines), Fax : +91-22-24955505, Email : kslmum@kasyap.com

MUMBAI

RATLAM

BADNAWAR

VAPI



A Quatarly News Letter for
peace and Non-violence

Ahimsa World



■ Printed, Published & Edited
By
Chetanya Kumar Kasyap

■ On behalf of :
World Jain Confederation
Shah & Nahar Ind. Estate,
Unit No. 338/340, A-Wing, Lower
Parel (West) Mumbai-400013
Tel. 56625823.

■ Printed at Chajjed Printry Pvt.
Ltd. 108, Station Road, Ratlam.

World Jain Confederation

PRESIDENT

- Dr. L. M. Singhavi, M. P.
New Delhi

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT

- Dr. N. P. Jain - Indore

SECRETARY GENERAL

- Shri. Jitendra S. Kothari

TREASURER

- Shri. Pravin K. Shah

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman

- Shri. Pratap Bhogilal

Trustees

- Shri. Deepchandbhai Gardi
- Dr. Dhiraj H. Shah, Jaina - U.S.A.
- Dr. Manilal P. Chandaria - Nairobi
- Shri. C. N. Sanghavi
- Shri. Anoopchand K. Shah
- Shri. Suresh C. Shah
- Shri. Sahu Rameshchandra Jain - Delhi
- Shri. Sugulchand Jain - Chennai

EDITORIAL BOARD

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Rashmi Kumar Zaveri | • Dr. Kumarpal Desai | • Dr. N. P. Jain |
| • Chetanya Kasyap | • Anopchand Shah | • Dr. Jitendra B. Shah |

► Contents ◀

○ Presidential	4	○ Literature Presented by WJC	8
○ WJC The Year 2003	4	○ The OBE Award	9
○ Special Editorial	5	○ The Surat Declaration at "Unity Of Minds"	10
○ News Of Interest	6	○ Surat Spiritual Declaration	11
○ Ahimsa Day In London	7	○ Jain Jagruti-The Jains In Action	14

Disclaimer :The Views expressed in this news letter are of the respective contributor and WJC does not necessarily concurs with the same.



PRESIDENTIAL

Dr. L. M. Singhvi



WJC was launched with a vision and as an act of faith. We envisioned it to be a global organisation of all denominations of Jains and all those who shared our commitment to the ideals of Ahimsa and Anekant. We conceived WJC as the hyphen that joins and the buckle that binds. Its approach is inclusive. Its mission is to build durable bridges of goodwill, to disseminate Jain and other literature of thought and values, to promote amity and understanding, to promote a sense of solidarity among all those who are committed to the cause of Peace among and within nations, and to serve the cause of understanding Non-Violence and harmony among all the peoples of the world. We are, of course, only a drop in the ocean but our contribution can be significant catalysts in rebuilding the world. Let us recall the immortal lines of the poet Blake, which enable us to see the world in a grain of sand and which offer us the whole world in the palms of our hands. Let us also recall the Guru – Shishya dialogue of Uddalaka and Svetaketu in Chhandogya Upanisad, which tells us the story of the seed and the banyan tree, a metaphore for the self and the world in which consciousness is the seed and the seed is the implicit Truth.

My son! This great banyan tree
has sprung up from seed so small
that you cannot see it.
Believe in what I say, my son!
That being is the seed; all else
but His expression.
He is truth. He is self.
Svetaketu! You are that.

Truth and Non-violence are the seeds of human consciousness through which Peace on Earth will be established. As Mahatma Gandhi taught us Truth is Non-Violence. In the words of Lord Mahavir, "Sachham Bhagwan" Truth is the master. Let The Truth of Non-Violence be our master. Let Civilization of the world forsake conflict, beat their swords into ploughshares and create a world of Peace, Justice and Non-violence. Let WJC take that quintessential messages to the citizens of the world and to Jains of all generations everywhere. That is WJC's tryst with destiny.

WJC - The Year 2003

- ❖ Celebrated "Ahimsa-Diwas", the interfaith function Co-participated with Bharat Jain Mahamandal on Mahaveer Jayanti. 15th April 2003 in Mumbai.
- ❖ The "Dialogue on Ahimsa" Seminar on 5th May, 2003 organized under the auspicious of His Holiness Acharya Mahapragya during the arrival of Ahimsa Yatra in Mumbai.
- ❖ The WJC publication "Ahimsa World", dedicated to Peace and non-violence started from July 2003. The News letter is Printed, Published & Edited by Sri Chetanya Kumar Kasyap.
- ❖ WJC participated in the JAINA convention in July 2003 held in Cincinnati, Ohio, and freely distributed Kshamapana/Sabhavana booklets and the first newsletter of Ahimsa World.
- ❖ On 2nd Oct 2003, WJC hold Kshamapana-Sadbhavana Celebration cum Interfaith Conference in the Birla Matushree Sabhagar Mumbai. Speakers of four different faiths Sh. Bal Kavi Bairagiji MP and noted poet, Padmshri Muzzfer Husein, Sh. Khojeste Mistree Munishri Kirtichandraji delivered the lectures. Sadhvi Vibhaji created auspicious atmosphere by chanting maglacharan. The Chief Guest of the function was Hounourable Sh. Manohar Joshi-Speaker Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The Ahimsa day celebration in the House of Commons, London with Institute of Jainology hosted by Labour MP Mr. Stephen Pound and graced by Conservative MP Mr. Peter Luff. The Program was well attended by hundreds of Jains living in UK and India. A Delegation heded by Dr. L. M. Singhvi and Sarvashri Pratap Bhogilal, Chetanya Kasyap and Mahesh Gandhi attended the function.
- ❖ The Executive Committee met 7 times and 52 new members added during the year



Special Editorial

Acharya Mahapragya The Mahatma Gandhi Of 21st Century

- Dr. N. P. Jain

His Holiness Acharya Mahapragya is a living embodiment of non-violence and peace, an ardent practitioner of Piety and Synthesis, a walking encyclopedia of religion and philosophy, a determined social reformer and an enlightened Ambassador of inter-faith harmony. At the age of 83, he strides on the world stage with youthful vigour in judicious blend with farsighted perception. His magnetic personality mirrors his peaceful soul, mature wisdom, deep insight into life and an inimitable communicative and highly inspiring flair which brings solace, conviction and joy to his listeners.

President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam has interacted with him several times and has declared that none else could inspire blossoming of communal harmony fraternity, tolerance and love as effectively and persuasively as Mahapragyaji.

Recently on 15th October 2003, President Abdul Kalam spent his birthday with Mahapragyaji at Surat. On this occasion, specially invited 15 leading inter-faith religious and spiritual leaders and scholars interacted with them in depth and issued a Surat Spiritual Declaration.

The Declaration carries a message of contemporary relevance as well as longer term significance. It says: "In whatever field we work, be it science, technology, medicine, politics, policing, theology, religion or judiciary, we have to remain in the service of the common man whose well-being is central to all human knowledge and endeavour". President, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam emerges as the messiah of Peace, non-violence and interfaith harmony, and the speech prayer appears on the face of this newsletter.

In this message emerges the profile of Acharya Mahapragya whom the renowned Hindi Poet Ramdhari Singh "Dinkar" once described as the second Vivekananda. I will call him the Gandhi of the 21st century and he has embarked upon an "Ahimsa Yatra" on foot which has already carried him through Rajasthan and Gujarat. In the third year of this yatra, which began on 5th December 2001, he will be walking through Maharashtra and Gujarat. His message is "active Ahimsa" must become a way of life. In this time and age growing terrorism and unbridled violence at international, national and society level has

created nerve-wrecking scare and fright. His soothing message of active non-violence in thought, deed and expression at all levels of life and activity appears as a rainbow in the sky. He calls upon humanity to practice compassion first and not just preach it. His pursuit of compassion is a pursuit of the ideal of "live, let live and help to let live". His spiritual prescriptions advocate a healthy and harmonious interdependence between Humans, Nature and other living beings. Mutual exploitation is only leading towards degradation and depletion of the entire living environment around us without which we, the human beings cannot survive. Emancipate the world before seeking your own emancipation. Your own soul would be much nobler & purer, more enlightened and responsive if you engage in the service of others with your heart full of tolerance (sahishnuta), cooperation (sahyog), equality (samta) and synthesis (samanvaya).

Acharya Mahapragya is the 10th Acharya and Head of the Jain Terapanth Sect. His predecessor, the renowned Acharya Tulsi had charted the path of universalizing the message of Ahimsa, Aparigraha and Anekant. Mahapragyaji has given this mission a farsighted vision, depth and expanse.

Mahapragyaji has been instrumental in bringing home to the global society the enormous benefits of meditation through the technique of Preksha Dhyana. It synthesizes the harmonies thereby eliminating negative emotions and building up positive emotions of love and humility. Meditation helps in motivation, concentration, relaxation and visualization. It is a precious gift to humanity.

He is a highly articulate and expressive writer and a sensitive poet. His books are treasures of knowledge and wisdom. In essence his writings convey to humanity the need to build bridges between religion, spirituality, science, development and environment. Here is a totally openhearted, open-minded saint who has consistently and convincingly argued for inseparable linkage between science and spirituality.

We salute with veneration this outstanding spiritual scientist, reformist saint, determined non-violent revolutionary and an abiding votary of peace, peaceful coexistence and harmonious interdependence.



NEWS OF INTEREST

- ❖ The forth Parliament of World's religions will take place in Barcelona, Spain from 7th to 13th July 2004. It is one of the most significant events of the Universal Forum of cultures, which is supported by UNESCO. The first Parliament in Chicago was attended by Late Shri Virchand Gandhi, who represented Jain Tradition.
- ❖ The preliminary meeting of the fourth parliament of World Religion was held at Delhi on 7th to 10th Dec 2003. Shri Pratap Bhogilal Chairman Board of Trustees of World Jain Confederation attended this meeting. There is also another meeting in connection to the forth Parliament meet of World religion in Kochi from 13th to 16th Dec 03. The subject was 'Harmony and Non-violence'. Dr. Hema Pokhran from USA is the key person in this world Fellowship of Inter-Religion Councils.
- ❖ BBCI Launches Jainism Website : BBC Religion and Ethics launched the Jainism website on 7th December 2003, which communicates the philosophy and culture of Jain Religion. The newly launched website will allow people worldwide to appreciate and understand the Jain values of Ahimsa, Aprigraha and Anekant as a highly relevant and essential part of modern living.
- ❖ Mahendra Mehta Honored in columbus, OHIO : Mahendra Mehta of Mumbai has been honored and awarded a purse of \$100,000 by Children at Columbus, Ohio. He has been helping runaway children from streets of Mumbai educating them and teaching them skills so that they return to society with respect. He also Distributes artificial legs to handicaps.
- ❖ JAIN DERASAR IN U.K. Places of worship are a necessity for mankind for finding peace and solace. The importance of this is even more so these days where people are constantly facing stress and strain.
The Mahavir Foundation in U.K. is planning a modern complex with a temple, which apart from the Jain temple will provide various amenities for the benefit of the younger generation in London at Brookshill Harrow Weald. This would be the first Jain temple in London.
Funds requirement is £Stg. 200,000 and the Mahavir Foundation has decided to raise £Stg. 100,000 in London for this purpose and would like World Jain Confederation (WJC) to raise an equivalent of £Stg. 100,000 in India.
Mahavir Foundation jointly with WJC Europe Chapter is planning a cycling project for children and elders from all different faiths who are invited to participate from U.K. to Paris, France. The money raised from this will be utilized for building the complex. WJC in one of its earlier meeting had decided to support such a project. WJC has also suggested to the Mahavir Foundation that they should jointly with WJC Europe Chapter build a small hostel for students which can be either within the complex or close to it.
The WJC will have to mostly raise these funds as Devdravya, which would enable payments to be made in India for cost of marble, other materials, salaries of craftsmen payable in India, etc. for the construction of temple.
For further details, you may contact :
Pravina Rohit Mehta on 01923 820204
Mahendra Mehta on 0208 426 1333
Suraj Shah on 07970 735 775

Vegetarian food leaves a deep impression on our nature. If the world adopts Vegetarianism it can change the destiny of humankind.

- Albert Einstein



AHIMSA DAY IN LONDON



Mr. L. M. Singhvi, President of WJC addressing the gathering



Mr. Pratap Bhogilal of WJC presenting literature to **Mr. Ronnen Sen**



Host Mr. Stephen Pound the Labour MP is welcoming the participants

Religious intolerance is increasingly pervading in societies all around the world. The environment, ecology and culture of humanity in the world have been disturbed tremendously endangering existence on the planet Earth. Science has made immense progress for materialistic affluence. At the same time there has been a continuous spiritual degradation with materialism and consumerism prevailing unbounded. Man's greed for power and money is getting limitless. Religious fundamentalism has led and is leading to conflict between communities and nations.

It was with a view to combat these ills with which the world is infested the WJC was formed a couple of years ago in April 2001. It seeks to promote and propagate the main tenets of Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa (non-violence), Anekant (multi-faceted view of reality as against fundamentalism) and Aparigriha (restraint in consumption and accumulation).

The Indian culture is tolerance and harmony. It is felt that inter-faith seminars will enable people to realize the essential of unity in diversity among all religions in the world.

Non-violence (Ahimsa) as propagated by Bhagwan Mahavir is all encompassing, in thought, word and deed. Ahimsa is not only towards human beings but also towards animals and vegetation. Animals and plant life are essential for man's existence and for his physical and spiritual happiness.

It is imperative to bring the relevance of these principles to the attention of the people in authority and influence legislatures and Governments of various countries to direct their policies to avoid inter-faith conflicts by bringing about suitable changes in education curriculum for spiritual upliftment, preservation of ecology and improving environment.

The WJC intends to influence them by holding meetings, lectures, seminars and presenting books on the above-mentioned tenets of Bhagwan Mahavir to Parliaments in various countries to try to influence Governments to make necessary changes in their policies and particularly in education.

The Ahimsa Day celebration in the House of Commons in London is the effort in this direction and the WJC jointly with the Institute of Jainology presented 5 sets of books on Jainism to the host labour MP and to the conservative MP, to the libraries of house of commons and house of Lords and the Chief Guest the Hon'ble High Commissioner of India. IOJ needs to be congratulated for the excellent arrangement of the function which was the great success.

- Pratap Bhogilal



Chief Guest Mr. Ronnen Sen
addressing on the occasion

AHIMSA DAY IN LONDON



Mr. Peter Luff, conservative MP
delivering his speech at the function

The Institute of Jainology, London, and World Jain Confederation jointly organized a function to celebrate Ahimsa Day in House of Commons in London on 14th October, 2003 when they took the opportunity to present sets of 8 books each to the host of the function, the Labour MP, Mr. Stephen Pound; the Conservative MP, Mr. Peter Luff; Librarians of the House of Commons and House of Lords and to H.E. Mr. Ronnen Sen, Indian High Commissioner in UK who was the Chief Guest at the occasion, which were very well appreciated. The IOJ along with its Chairman, Shri Ratibhai Chanderia and his colleagues need to be complimented for the excellent arrangements for the function.

Apart from this presentation our President Dr. L.M. Singhvi, M.P., addressed the gathering on the relevance of Ahimsa in the present world scenario. WJC was represented by Shri Pratap Bhogilal-Chairman Board Of Trustee, Shri Chaitanya Kasyap-Vice President and Shri Mahesh Gandhi, members of the Governing Council. The function was well attended and received with acclaim and was a great success.

- Report by : Chetanya Kasyap, From London

LITERATURE PRESENTED BY WJC



Mr. Chetanya Kasyap Vice President
WJC presenting literature
to Mr. Peter Luff

1. **JAINA Philosophy & Religion**
- translated by Dr. Nagin J. Shah from Gujarati publication titled "Jain Darshan" by Muni Nyayvijayji.
2. **Tattvarthasutra 'That which is'**
- by Dr. Nathmal Tatia
3. **Jain Path for Purification**
- by Prof. P.S. Jaini
4. **'Anekant' - The Third Eye**
- by Acharya Mahapragnya
5. **Jain Temples in and outside India**
- by Dr. L.M. Singhvi
6. **Non-violence - a way of life**
- by Dr. Kumarpal Desai
7. **Jain Declaration on Nature**
8. **Towards Global Togetherness**
- by Dr. L.M. Singhvi.
9. **Jain Art Of India**



Mr. Ratibhai P Chandaria Chairman-
BOT Institute of Jainology presenting
literature to Mr. Stephen Pound



Mr. Sailendra Manawat presenting literature to the librarian of house of commons UK



Mr. Mahesh Gandhi of WJC presenting literature to the librarian of house of Lords UK

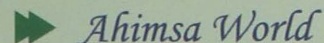
The august gathering at the function comprises of many MPs Lords and key figures from Jain Communities in UK and WJC members from India



Shri Nemu Chandaria & Prince Charles

Nemubhai Chandaria received the prestigious OBE award.

WJC takes pride in announcing the presentation of the OBE award to our esteemed Governing Council Member, Shri Nemu Chandaria by Her Majesty the Queen of England for his very many varied services to the community and particularly to the Jains. The award was presented by Prince Charles.



10 .



SURAT SPIRITUAL DECLARATION

PRESENTED TO HON'BLKE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

- Dr. A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM

SURAT SPIRITUAL DECLARATION

Creator's Message

God Has Created the Human Being with Brain and Thinking Faculty. He Has Commanded His creation to use the faculty with reasoning to reach His image.

This is the mission of human life.

Science is a recent boon God bestowed upon mankind. Science with reasoning becomes the capital of the society. Spirituality is a special quality God has given to the human being. The duty of the human being is to discover it and use it for the benefit of all.

In whatever field we work, be it science, technology, medicine, politics, theology, religion or judiciary, we have to remain in the service of the common man whose well being is central to all human knowledge and endeavour. The present Condition

Even while the above is the main focus of human life we find that our nation is facing loss of confidence in itself, at various levels. There is lack of tolerance for others' religion, faith and philosophy or viewpoints; there is lack of harmony; there is lack of moral, ethical and cultural values and there is lack of sensitivity to poverty and inequality. Womanhood is not given its rightful place. There are various social problems like employment opportunities and the resultant rise in crime and other social evils like addiction to drugs etc. thus there are various forms of violence spreading in the country. While science and technology and economic growth would help in solving some of these problems, it is possible to manage these complex forces to the benefit of humanity only when the dimension of spirituality is embedded in human knowledge and efforts.

Dimensions of Spirituality

Every religion has a central component – spirituality driven by compassion and love. Rationality and logic are intrinsic to science and spirituality. A spiritual experience is the goal of a deeply religious person whereas a major discovery or

an invention is the goal of a scientific mind. If both the aspects are unified, amalgamated in our own patterns, we can transcend to that level of thinking, in which unity is a cohesive concept. Then the enlightenment of citizenship will take place. For this environment, the two major components – Science and Spirituality have to interact. A Peace prayer can be the foundation for both.

Peace Prayer

"Oh Almighty, create thoughts and actions in the minds of the people of the nation so that they live united.

Oh Almighty, bless the people to take a path of life with righteousness as righteousness gives the strength of character.

Help all religious leaders of the country to give strength to the people to combat the divisive forces.

Guide the people to develop an attitude to appreciate different view points and ways of lives and transform enmity among individuals, organisations and nations, into friendliness and harmony.

Embed the thought

'Nation is bigger than the Individual' in the minds of the leaders and people.

Oh God, bless the people to work with perservance to transform the country into a peaceful and prosperous nation."

Spiritual Component of Religion

In our country, certain religions are presently being subjected to tremendous stress due to violence in body and mind. If we study the history of India over 3000 years, we will find that the country has always stood for peace. It worked for peace; it prayed for peace to live in peace. But these days, peace seems to be endangered due to societal dynamics described briefly earlier. So, how does one bring back peace? Paradoxically, the 'I' in us wants peace. Nevertheless, to get peace one has to first get ride of the 'I' and 'me' as per our scriptures. This



may be a tough proposition. For in virtually every sentence, every thought we are dictated by 'I' and 'me' the ego will vanish. When the ego vanishes, hatred fades away. When hatred goes away, violence in mind and body will disappear. Therefore, peace comes when forsake "I" and "Me". The spiritual goal of every religion is indeed violence free individual in mind and body and thereby a peaceful society. Removal of poverty is one of the components for realizing peace.

Removal of Poverty

We realize that the 300 million young citizen who are below 20 years of age in India want peace, prosperity, happiness and safety. It is our responsibility as religious and spiritual leaders to carry out this mission of removal of poverty from our people.

Fortunately, there is a road map to go to the India 2020 of our national dream. That entails working intensively on five important areas that have been identified. These are agriculture and food processing, education and healthcare, information and communication technology, infrastructure development including networking of rivers and providing urban amenities in rural areas. If the villagers prosper, the states prosper; if the states prosper, India can prosper. Such a network of prosperity is extremely important to realize the vision of the nation. Removal of poverty means addressing several related elements like removal of illiteracy and providing good governance as it is vital to ensure that funds allotted for the poor and the earnings by the poor people are not frittered away in various forms of social evils like corruption. This is where making of an enlightened citizen comes in. this acquires amoral, ethical and spiritual partnership. We have considered how this partnership can be developed.

Religion a beautiful partner in the Nation's Prosperity

Religions are like exquisite gardens, places full of surpassing beauty and tranquility, like sacred groves filled with beautiful birds and their melodious songs. Religions are beautiful gardens, but they are islands. They are enchanting islets, veritable oasis for the soul and the spirit. But they are islands nevertheless. If we can connect all these islands with love and compassion, in a 'garland

project', we will have a peaceful, happy and prosperous India in fort of us. Universal trusts embodied in each religion are very similar and they will help to form the bridge thus reinforcing basic unity.

Another fact of today is that the intellectual gap between the opinion maker class and the masses is rather large. The removal of the gap is best done by spreading knowledge and increasing the knowledge base of every citizen in all vital aspects of their lives. As the number of enlightened citizens' increases, the ability to cope with and transform problems also increases. In order to achieve this, in addition to concentrating on education of the youth, there is also need for continual education of adult population and senior citizens on values of lives and about the basic spiritual unity of all religions.

Education and intellectual activities are vital. In addition theses values have to be reinforced in every citizen through specific project, which can bring people together, irrespective of their social levels or religious beliefs.

GARLAND PROJECTS

In order to do so we resolve to undertake the following projects and activities.

Project 1: Celebration of Inter-Religious Festivals

Every month in all parts of India there can be a multi-religious gathering to convey the core message attempted in the prayer of peace and about the basic truth contained in various religions. Such a prayer shopped be preceded by prayers from all religions practiced in that part of the country by respective religious and spiritual leaders in the presence of the people. Each month the day selected could be a holy day from one religion: Islam, Hindu, Christianity, Sikh, Parsi, Jain Buddhist etc. Regular conduct of such meetings by all religious leaders and people from different religions respecting holy days of other religions will send a powerful message. If possible such gatherings can take place at the religious places where all persons from other religions also can gather on that day. People should also exchange pleasantries and sweets during theses meetings, as it the practice in some parts of the country where unity of minds prevails. In addition, in order to spread the message of equality to everybody on that day a 'langar' (community kitchen and eating)



can be arranged so that all people eat common food sitting side by side.

How to organise these? We believe that, if all the religious spiritual groups build strong connectivity between their own beautiful islands of happiness and solace, it is possible to turn these monthly meetings into mass movements for respecting each other's rituals, ways of life or view points. It will bring harmony and love. Peace and happiness will follow.

Project 2: Multi- Religious Projects

So far, religious groups have taken many efforts towards the removal of poverty and the accruing misery, in large or small scale, but in isolation. We will launch additionally a number of multi-religious projects in education, healthcare and water supply as well as for generating entrepreneurship and employment, to help the poor people. People will see for themselves that multiple religions are working together for common good. These efforts will elevate religions in the minds of the people and the nation will benefit.

Project 3: Education in and with the ambience of Unity of Religions

All religious educational institutions operating in different parts of the country should enroll children from other religions in certain proportions and imbibe values such as religious tolerance, righteousness. The real purpose and the unity of religions should be embedded in the minds of the students. These children who are the pillars of tomorrow, will foster a sense of peace and amenity between themselves and for others. Simple exercises to reinforce positive thinking can also attempted. In addition to these, specially designed value based educational material should be generated so that they are supplied in large scale to the children. Attempts should also be made for large-scale dissemination of these through various forms of media. It may not necessary to begin an exercise to generate these materials, as a large number of them are available in India and abroad. It may be necessary to search for them and shape them to suit our special needs.

Project 4: Inter-Faith Dialogue

In addition to the above projects impinging directly on common people and citizens, it is also necessary to have a continual Inter-Faith-Dialogue between the religious and spiritual heads as well as scholars.

This dialogue can address, among other things, minimum common code between religions, method of creating congenial atmosphere for various religions, solution for some of the burning problems of the society etc. Proceedings of and conclusion from such an Interfaith Dialogues can be widely disseminated among people through various electronic and print media. Models for these Dialogues exist in some other countries as well. Maximum benefit may be derived from such knowledge sharing in addition to finding our own unique methods.

Project 5: National Level Independent and Autonomous organisation managed by religious

and spiritual leaders as well as scholars and enlightened citizen

In addition to the above projects impinging directly on common people and citizens, it is also necessary to have a continual Inter-Faith-Dialogue between the religious and spiritual heads as well as scholars. This dialogue can address, among other things, minimum common code between religions, methods of creating congenial atmosphere for various religions, solutions for some of the burning problems of the society etc. Proceedings of and conclusion from such an Inter-Faith Dialogue can be widely disseminated among people through various electronic and print media. Models for these Dialogues exist in some other countries as well. Maximum benefit may be derived from such knowledge sharing in addition to finding our own unique methods.

CONCLUSION:

On the whole, the congregation of spiritual and religious leaders came to the conclusion that with the above five key elements the "Garland Project" for "Unity of Minds" and for creating "Enlightened Citizens" in India and eventually in the world, can be successful if we start taking action in all earnestness after this "SURAT SPIRITUAL DECLARATION" made on 15th October 2003 in the presence of Hon'ble President of India.

India can emerge as a Developed Nation by 2020 with its civilization heritage and value systems spreading harmony and peace to the whole world. This "Unity of Minds can be achieved even while keeping intact the rich diversity of rites, rituals, ideas and beliefs amongst us and blending them with modern knowledge and skills.



જૈન જાગૃતિ સેન્ટરનો ઉદ્દેશ અને સમાજને ઉપયોગીતા

જૈન ધર્મ અન્ય ધર્મોની જેમ, વૈચારિક મતભેદોને કારણે અનેક ફિરકાઓમાં વહેંચાયેલો છે. જૈન જાગૃતિ સેન્ટર આ દરેક ફિરકાઓમાં ગઠબંધનનું કાર્ય કરે છે. અને જૈન સમાજની વ્યક્તિઓને એક સમાન ભૂમિકા પર આણે છે. અન્યોન્યને ઓળખી પૂરક બનવા, પરસ્પર ભ્રાતૃભાવ અને સ્નેહની ગાંઠ વડે એકરૂપ થવા દરેકને પ્રેરે છે અને આ રીતે સામાજિક, શૈક્ષણિક સાંસ્કૃતિક અને આર્થિક ક્ષેત્રે તે માધ્યમ બની રહે છે.

જૈનજાગૃતિ સેન્ટરની શરૂઆત તા. ૨૬-૭-૧૯૭૫ ના શુભદિને થયેલ છે, સેન્ટ્રલ બોર્ડની સ્થાપના તા. ૧૬-૧-૧૯૮૧ ના શુભદિને થઈ.

જૈન જાગૃતિ સેન્ટર ભલે જૈનોનું હોય પરંતુ હકીકતમાં તે સર્વેનું છે, જૈન સંસ્કૃતિ આ દેશમાં પુરાતન કાળથી વિકસી રહી છે. બીજાના સુખમાં હમેશા તેનો આનંદ સમાયેલો છે. ધાર્મિક, તબીબી, શૈક્ષણિક અને સામાજિક ક્ષેત્રે નૂતન ક્રાન્તિ સર્જવી, માનવતાની પ્રવૃત્તિઓને વેગ આપવો તે તેનો મુખ્ય આદર્શ છે.

જૈન જાગૃતિ સેન્ટર આજના સમયનાં જૈન સમાજનું એક આગવું અંગ બની સમાજની વિવિધલક્ષી સેવા બજાવી રહ્યું છે. માત્ર ૨૮ વર્ષની યુવાન વયે ભારતભરમાં ૧૦૫ સેન્ટરો અને ૫૫,૦૦૦ સભ્યોની ભરી ભાદરી સભ્ય સંખ્યા સાથે સંપૂર્ણ પરિપક્વતા પામી શક્યું છે. જૈન જાગૃતિ સેન્ટરમાં સેન્ટ્રલ બોર્ડ તરફથી તેમજ વિલેપાર્લા અને સાયન-માટુગા સેન્ટર્સ તરફથી ચેરીટેબલ ટ્રસ્ટ ચલાવવામાં આવે છે. જેમાં મુખ્યત્વે સમાજના જરૂરિયાતમંદોને અનાજ ચણત ક્ષેત્રે, તબીબી ક્ષેત્રે તેમજ માનવ ચણત તથા જીવદયા ક્ષેત્રે ચણત પૂરી પાડવામાં આવે છે, તેમજ દેશમાં ક્યારેક દુકાળ, અતિવૃષ્ટિ કે ભુકંપ જેવા કુદરતી પ્રકોપ આવી પડે છે, ત્યારે પીડાગ્રસ્ત દેશ બાંધવોને તથા પ્રાણીઓને મદદ કરવા અગ્રસ્થાને જ હોય છે.

આ કારમી મોઘવારીના યુગમાં મર્યાદિત આવક ધરાવતી વ્યક્તિને પોતાના પુત્ર કે પુત્રીના લગ્ન વખતે ભોગવવી પડતી તકલીફોના નિરાકરણ રૂપે યોજવામાં આવતા સમૂહ લગ્ન સમાજ માટે આશીર્વાદ સમાન છે. આ પરિસ્થિતિના ઉકેલરૂપે સમાજ પ્રત્યેનું ઋણ અદા કરવાની ફરજના ભાગરૂપે જૈન જાગૃતિ સેન્ટરો દ્વારા સમુહલગ્નોનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવે છે.

તદ્ઉપરાંત દરેક અલગ અલગ સેન્ટર્સ દ્વારા રક્તદાન શિબિર, નેત્રચક્ષ, સર્વ રોગ નિદાન કેમ્પ, માનવ ચણત વાર્તાલાપ પ્રવચનો, પર્યુષણ વ્યાખ્યાનમાળાઓ, દર્શન યાત્રાઓ, તિર્થયાત્રાઓ, તપસ્વીઓનું બહુમાન, ધાર્મિક શિક્ષણ શિબિરો જેવી વિવિધલક્ષી પ્રવૃત્તિઓનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવે છે. તેમજ દરેક સેન્ટર્સ તરફથી દરેક મહીને એક કે તેથી વધારે વખત દરેક સભ્યોનું સ્નેહમિલન-સહભોજન યોજાય છે. આ રીતે દરેક સભ્યો એક બીજાના પરિચયથી વધું નિકટ આવે છે. જેમાં ધાર્મિક-સામાજિક અને વ્યવહારિક વિચારોનું મોકળા મનથી આદાનપ્રદાન થાય છે. આમ, જૈન જાગૃતિ સેન્ટર માત્ર ભોજન અને મનોરંજનની સંસ્થા ન બની રહેતા પોતાની સેવાકીય અને સામાજિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ દ્વારા સમાજ ઉપયોગી સંસ્થા બની રહે છે. અને એટલા માટે જ જ્યારે જ્યારે જૈન જાગૃતિ સેન્ટરનું કોઈપણ નવું સેન્ટર ખુલે છે, ત્યારે સમયની મર્યાદા પહેલા જ તેની સભ્ય સંખ્યા છલકાઈ જાય છે, જે તેની લોકપ્રિયતાનો સદ્ધર પુરાવો છે.

સમાજનું પ્રતિબિંબ ઝીલનારી જેની આકૃતિ છે, ને આપણા જીવનની સમાયેલી જેમાં સંસ્કૃતિ છે, અરે જેનું સભ્યપદ એક “સ્ટેટસ” ની

નિશાની છે,

એવી સહુના હૈયે વસેલી એકમાત્ર સંસ્થા “જૈન જાગૃતિ સેન્ટર” છે

Any religion that is not based on respect for life is not a true religion until he extends his circle of compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace. - Albert Schweitzer



On the occasion of the 3rd issue of the news letter



Ahimsa World

Jain Jagruti Center Central Board

Jain Jagruti Center Central Board Charitable Trust

Congratulate

WORLD JAIN CONFEDERATION

With Best Wishes

- Jain Jagruti Center Juhu Beach
- Jain Jagruti Center Kandivali-Borivali
- Jain Jagruti Center Andheri
- Jain Jagruti Center Juhu
- Jain Jagruti Center Sion-Matunga
- Jain Jagruti Center Vile-Parle
- Jain Jagruti Center North-East
- Jain Jagruti Center Pink-Pantnager
- Jain Jagruti Center Shivaji Park
- Jain Jagruti Center Dadar
- Jain Jagruti Center Golden Garodia
- Jain Jagruti Center Ghatkoper
- Jain Jagruti Center Chembur
- Jain Jagruti Center Malad
- Jain Jagruti Center Chunabhatti
- Jain Jagruti Center Bombay
- Jain Jagruti Center Vidya Vihar
- Jain Jagruti Center Nalasopara
- Jain Jagruti Center Ladis Wing-Central Mumbai
- Jain Jagruti Center Junior Wing-Parle-Andheri
- Jain Jagruti Center Mulund
- Jain Jagruti Center Ladies Wing Mumbai East
- Jain Jagruti Center Amrit Nager
- Jain Jagruti Center Jam Jagdusha
- Jain Jagruti Center Vashi
- Jain Jagruti Center New Bombay
- Jain Jagruti Center Raja Wadi
- Jain Jagruti Center Vikroli
- Jain Jagruti Center Town
- Jain Jagruti Center Town
- Jain Jagruti Center Warli Tardeo



Any religion that is not based on respect for life is not a true religion until he extends his circle of compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.

- Albert Schweitzer

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

ATUL LTD

Atul 396020, Gujarat, India



A MEMBER OF LALBHAI GROUP

**While we create wealth for the society,
we also preserve the environment**