

# **4<sup>th</sup> International Jain Conference Jains' Contributions: Past and Prospects**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, January 2025**

(2550<sup>th</sup> Nirvana Kalyanaka Year of Bhagwan Mahavira Swami)

Organised by

Shrut Ratnakar, Ahmedabad

In association of

JAINA (U.S.A.), World Jain Confederation & Sri Mahavira Jain Vidyalaya

Dear Jain Scholars,

We are pleased to announce that the 4th International Jain Conference will be held on January 11-12, 2025, in Ahmedabad. The first three conferences were met with great enthusiasm from the Jain community and the academic world, and we are excited to welcome you to this upcoming event.

This year marks the 2550th anniversary of the great departure of Bhagawan Shri Mahavir Swami, a momentous occasion celebrated nationwide. In this spirit, it is fitting to organize a conference focused on the contributions of Jainism over these 2550 years. As we reflect on history, we recognize that Jainism has profoundly influenced various aspects of society, yet much of this is not well documented. Many young people today are unaware of Jainism's teachings and impact, which could greatly benefit from logical and well-researched presentations.

## **Key Areas of Focus:**

1. **Economic and Social Contributions:** Jain leaders, merchants, and community members have historically played vital roles in responding to national emergencies—whether during droughts, floods, or natural disasters—without any discrimination. Documenting these contributions will help educate today's youth on the significance of Jainism in societal welfare. We encourage scholars to prepare research papers for this milestone anniversary, which will benefit both current and future generations.
2. **Contributions to Art, Sculpture, and Architecture:** Jainism's rich history in art and architecture is exemplified through stunning idols and magnificent temples. From the teachings of the first Tirthankar, Rishabhdeva, to the present day, Jainism has greatly influenced artistic development. We invite discussions on these contributions, especially how they can inspire young Jain artists today.
3. **Literary, Philosophical, and Theoretical Contributions:** The past 2550 years have seen significant literary contributions, including the Agama Granthas in Ardha-magadhi and sophisticated Sanskrit texts. Jain scholars have made remarkable strides in philosophical discourse, with principles like Polytheism and Saptabhangi still relevant today. We aim to highlight these topics at the conference.

Looking on the above glorious scenario we may presume that the proposed Conference may be establishing a wonderful history and future of Jains to commemorate Bhagwan Mahaviraswami.

4. **What Jain needs to contribute to the World in the next decade**

Although the principles, literature, art and architecture of Jainism are unmatched, the present situation is somewhat different. On the one hand, the number of revered sadhus and sadhvis is continuously increasing, while on the other hand, the spirit of religion is decreasing among the youth and girls of Jain followers. Neglect of Jainism is on the rise. The position of Jains is very bright and commendable in western states but not very good in other states. People of other religions also lack a general understanding of Jainism, so they do not see respect for Jains. Therefore, in the next decade, in order to increase interest in religion, to increase the understanding of the principles of Jainism, what should be done by Jains will also be considered.

We warmly invite you to be part of this memorable event celebrating the legacy of Shraman Bhagwan Mahavir Swami, which has been carried on by Jains over the centuries.

Register using following link: <https://forms.gle/7Y2X8aQ4V4613do76>

With warm regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Jitendra B. Shah - 9825800126)

Coordinator 4<sup>TH</sup> IJC