



International School for Jain Studies

ISJS/NL/SEP/2011

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..Newsletter

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Dr Shugan Jain, ISJS India Chairman, visits USA to participate in Paryushan Parva at Jain Centre of Greater Boston and promote Jain studies at US Universities. Sept 1st to Sept 17th 2011.

Inauguration of ISIS Center of Jain Studies at Claremont Lincoln University California

The first ISJS Centre of Jain Studies was inaugurated at Claremont Lincoln University on Sept 6th 2012. The program started with a formal welcome lunch hosted by Prof to ISJS team consisting of Dr Sulekh Jain, Dr Shugan Jain, Mrs Pramoda Behn and Sh Dilip Shah and attended by Prof Dan Smith (VCU), President of CLU and Ms Brianne Donaldson, Chairperson Jain Centre exploratory committee of CLU. The formal inauguration started with a welcome breakfast at 8AM on Sept 6th, followed by the inaugural function attended by hundreds of Jains from Los Angeles area, faculty, ISSJS alumni on CLU, Chairman and President of CLU and a large pool of Media representatives. ISJS formally expressed its sincere thanks and whole hearted cooperation in making the centre successful. On this occasion, ISJS also present over 100 Jain books for CLU library with promise of more to follow. CLU also expressed their sincere thanks for the first non Abrahamic religion Centre to be opened at CLU. Lighting the lamps, presenting the shawls to CLU dignitaries and brief speeches formed the part of the function attended by several hundred persons. This was followed by a Convocation ceremony of CLU in which the Convocation address was delivered by HH Ambassador of South Africa. The function was followed by enjoyable vegan lunch and a meeting of the Jain Community leaders from Los Angeles and ISJS team on making the centre a model Centre of Jain Studies.

Lecture on Peace harmony and development through AAA doctrine of Jainism at South Asia Institute of Harvard University on Sept 8th 4PM

Prof Parimal Patil, head of the SAI organized a lecture on the subject by Shugan Jain. The Lecture dealt with the application of the principles of Ahinsa, Anekant and Aparigraha of Jains to achieve peace, social harmony and all round sustainable development and how historically Jain Spiritual leaders and luminaries applied these principles to achieve these objectives. The lecture was followed by intense discussions with the attending participants. ISJS thanks Prof Patil and Sh Nawraj for organizing this successful lecture.

Visiting Yale University, Dept of Religious Studies, New Haven Connecticut

ISJS team consisting of Shugan Jain, Dr Khasgiwala and Sh Kulbhusan Jain visited Yale University on Sept 12th to enhance cooperation between ISJS and the prestigious Yale University. The ISJS delegation met Prof Phyllis Granoff (Head Dept of Religious studies and a renowned Jain Scholar), Ms Ellen Gogh and Ms Lynna Dhanani both ISSJS alumni and now completing their PhD studies at Yale in Jainism and some Yale students interested in Jain studies. The discussions were open to appraise each other about the developments in Jain Studies, problems associated, ISSJS 2012 programs and enhance cooperation amongst the two institutions. ISJS extended a warm invitation to Prof Granoff to ISSJS2012 as expert faculty and some students as participants as well.

Lectures at Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond Virginia (Sept 13th and 14th)

Shugan Jain delivered two lectures of one hour each on 'Introduction to Jainism' and 'religion and Non violence based ethics of Jainism' to students of VCU. The lectures were attended by over two hundred students from VCU and several Jain Community members from Richmond also. Both the lectures were followed by extensive discussions with the students as well. The lectures were also taken as an opportunity to introduce

ISSJS2012 programs. These lectures were organized by Prof Dan Smith of VCU who is an alumnus of ISJS 2010.

In the evening of Sept 13th, a dinner was hosted by VCU and attended by Prof Dan Smith, Prof Mark Woods and Prof David Bromley Head of Religious studies VCU to explore ways and means to enhance cooperation between ISJS and VCU. The discussions will be followed by further discussions in October 2011 with ISJS USA representatives. ISJS expresses sincere thanks to Prof Smith and local host Mr Yougesh Jain for the courtesies extended.

Das Lakshan Poojas and lectures at Jain Centre of Greater Boston

During the stay at Boston, the day' program consisted of guiding and the host Jain community as well as participate in the special poojas of Das lakshan from 8AM till 10.30AM. After the poojas, usually one of the host families used to invite me for lunch and have personal discussions with them after the lunch on some special aspect /text of Jain religion. In the evening there were a series of lectures delivered. These lectures consisted of two parts, namely explain the Spiritual Virtue identified /associated on that particular day (e.g. Supreme Forgiveness, humility, straightforwardness, cleanliness, truth, self restraint, austerities, giving up, solitariness and celibacy) and the texts **Asht Pahud** by Ac Kund Kund. In Asht Pahud, only the two chapters namely **Dansana** (right belief) and **Sheel** (Nature of the soul /character) were discussed due to the paucity of time. The lectures were followed by questions and answers. The language was a mix of Hindi and English so that non Hindi speaking Jains and others could also benefit from such discourse. Saturdays and Sundays used to big affairs as the number of devotees used to increase significantly. Overall all and one expressed joy and satisfaction with the entire program. ISJS and Shugan Jain thank the management of Jain Centre of Greater Boston, particularly their president Smt Arti Shah, Dr Chandra Khasgiwal, Mr Kul Bhushan Jain (along with his wife, children and mother particularly for their excellent hospitality at their home) and Mr Rasik Vagadia in making the visit happen and provide extra ordinary hospitality throughout.

Other important meetings

On Sept 15th important meetings were held with Dr Sushil Jain President JAINA and Sh Narendra Jain Chairman IDJO USA to exchange notes about the working of ISJS and the present scenario of Jain studies and JAINA in USA. ISJS thanks Sh Akinchan Jain and his wife Namrata Jain to make these meetings and stay at Washington extremely enjoyable. On Sept 16th, meetings were held in Philadelphia with Prof Gary Francione, an expert speaker /faculty resource of ISJS and member of ISJS USA AC and Sh Dilip Shah, a senior functionary of ISJS USA and ex President of JAINA USA to apprise each other about ISJS and academic studies in USA along with ways and means to enhance the reach of ISJS.

Photos on the above

Inauguration of ISJS Centre at Claremont Lincoln University, LA,USA



Lecture at Harvard University, USA



Lecture at Yale University, USA



Two lectures at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA



Das Lakshan Poojas and lectures at Jain Centre of Greater Boston from 2nd to 12th Sep 2011

