



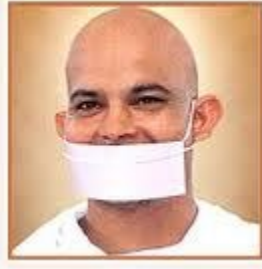
Lord Mahaveer

JVB International Reflections..



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Acharya Mahashraman

JVB Orlando

Samani Bhavit Pragya

Samani Kanchan Pragya

www.jainvishwaBharati.org

JVB Houston

Samani Vikas Pragya

Samani Maryada Pragya

www.jvbhouston.org

JVB New Jersey

Samani Sanmati Pragya

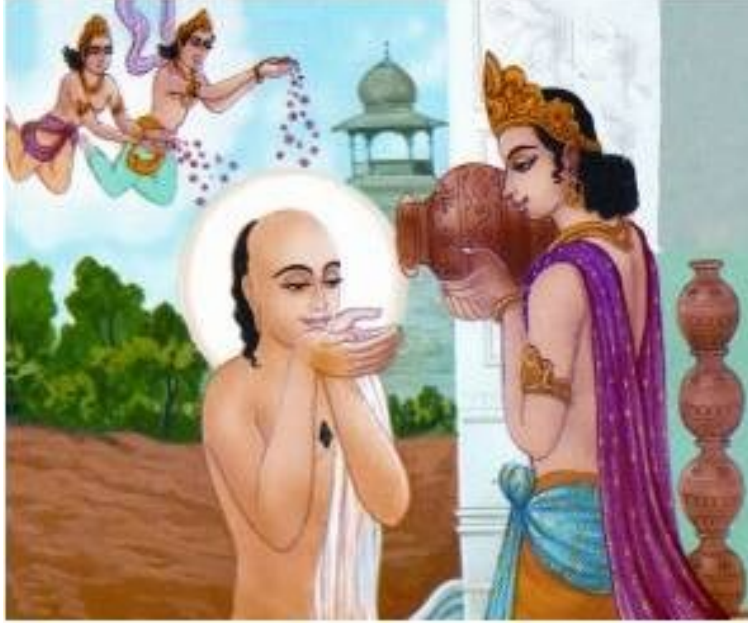
Samani Jayant pragya

www.jvbnj.org

Miami, FIU

Samani Shukla Pragya

Samani Rohit Pragya



Akshaya Tritiya or Akha Teej, is being celebrated with full enthusiasm amongst the Jain people on the third Tithi (Lunar day) of Bright Half (Shukla Paksha). Astrologically, the day depicts unique planetary positions of the Sun, Moon and Jupiter, as all three of them unanimously come together in Mrigshira Nakshatra. "Akshaya", which is a Sanskrit word, literally means one that never diminishes or ends. to start something good as the whole day is appropriate to start new ventures. This day is especially related to Lord Rishabhadeva.

Highlights of this issue:

Akshaya Tritiya

News from JVB
Orlando Center

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News from JVB
New Jersey Center

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News from JVB
Houston Center

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News from JVB
Miami FIU

Rishabhadeva alias Adinath, the first Tirthankara was King of Ayodhya. Rishbha renounced the worldly pleasures heading towards the life of asceticism. Jain ascetics do neither possess money nor food. They do not even cook food for themselves. Surviving on alms, they go to people and ask for food. Rshabhadeva also went to people for food. However, the people of that time were ignorant to this life style, as he was first monk in this era. People offered valuable stone, animals and even their daughters to honor their beloved king. He fasted for a whole long year until one day his grandson Shreyansha finally, offered him sugar cane juice. This offering of great gift took place on the day of **Akshaya Tritiya**. Jains, even today, observe long term fast to commemorate their first Tirthankara Rshabhadeva and complete their fast on Akshaya Tritiya with sugar cane juice.



News from JVB Orlando Center

20th Annual Spiritual Camp – Jan 15th – 18th, 2016

Under the guidance of Samani Madhur Pragyaji and the visiting 7 additional Samniji, Satya Pragya, Parimal Pragya, Shukla Pragya, Vikash Pragya, Rohini Pragya, Rohit Pragya, and Maryada Pragya. JVB Orlando conducted its 20th Annual Spiritual Camp. The theme of the camp was “Nanassa Sarmayaro - Knowledge”. A record of 310 participants from all over the US attended. Samaniji's led various interactive and learning sessions throughout the day. Saturday afternoon was the Jain quiz contest in the style of a cricket match. It was a learning experience with fun. Bhakti Sangeet evening was held. Akshay Deshpande was the MC of the soulful musical program performed by singers Madhu Parand and Surbhi Adesh accompanied by her sons on the instruments. Sunday evening was the kids cultural program with skits, singing and dancing performed by the Gyanshala students. The audience had enjoyed watching the kids make the stories come alive and seeing lessons that were being taught throughout the program. This year's camp was another huge success.



Samani's welcome to JVB Orlando Center - March 27th, 2016:

Orlando Sangh gave a grand welcome to Samani Bhavit Pragyaji and Samani Kanchan Pragyaji. There was an air of excitement in the center on the arrival of Samaniji's. Sangh President Ashok Shah and Chairman Kamlesh Shah gave a welcome speech. Deepak Shah, Sheetal Doshi, Manoj Gandhi, Vijay Lunawat, Manish Gandhi, Naina Meht and others also expressed their excitement and welcomed the Samaniji's with their speeches. Everyone was excited to continue their spiritual journey under the guidance of Samaniji's. The Samanijis spoke about the “requirement of Guru”. Samani Bhavit Pragyaji talked about the “importance of living within”, and sang a song. The welcoming program was enjoyed by all.



Mahavir Jayanti – April 19th, 2016:

Samani Bhavit Pragyaji and Samani Kanchan Pragyaji were invited on the auspicious occasion of Mahavir Jayanti to Shantiniketan near Orlando. Samani Kanchan Pragyaji sang a melodious song and made meditation to all. Samani Bhavit Pragyaji explained the principles of Lord Mahavir, especially non-violence in day to day life. She emphasized on the development of compassion, love, and equanimity as these are powerful tools to make one's life purposeful, progressive, and productive. The entire program was inspiring and well received by Jains and Non-Jains.

Coming Events

Akshay-tritiya – May 8th

Presha Meditation One Day Camp – July

Guru Purnima – July 19th

Pakshik Pratikraman – Every 15 days

Paryushan Parva – August 30th – September 6th



News from JVB Houston Center

JVB Houston welcomed Year, 2016 with Jaap & Jainism Quiz:

JVB Houston New year, 2016 started on a spiritual and positive note with a special 1 hour jaap of " *Uvsaggaharam Stotra*" by Couples under Samani Parimal Pragyaji's guidance and 1 hour of Jainism Quiz conducted by Samani Maryada Pragyaji. The New year Jaap was performed by making a Swastika of couples and nonstop chanting of Mantras. 8 different groups of JVB community members Including Senior Kids (ages 11+) of JVB Gyanshala participated enthusiastically in the quiz and passed it with flying colors in five different rounds.

Fond Farewell program of Samani Parimal Pragyaji & Samani Maryada Pragyaji:

125+ members of JVB community were in full presence to witness a warm & memorable farewell planned by current JVB Team. New Year geet of senior most class of Charitra group, video recorded farewell messages of Arham, Gyan & Darshan group of JVB Gyanshala, Short video presentation of JVB's Eventful year of 2015, don't Touch... Paap, a silent mime skit by JVB Gyanshala parents, an interesting quiz game on Samanijis year around Pravachans on 11 Paap, Heartfelt farewell speeches and Farewell Bhajan of Arham Bhajan Mandali were all part of the cultural program. Samani Parimal Pragyaji's farewell lecture on five elements of the Body and the appreciation of dedicated members of JVB Community working tirelessly behind the scenes was the highlight of this event



JVB Participation in ICC Republic Day Celebrations:

The participation of JVB Gyanshala kids (Speech Competition) as well as Silent Mime skit " Don't Touch. PAAP" by Gyanshala parents was applauded by one and all.

First I-Choose Session on Tax Planning & Its Benefits, Feb. 7th

As part of community outreach, JVB Houston Center organized its first workshop of I-Choose for year 2016, a program for young professionals on Tax Planning & Its Benefits. The event was conducted by distinguished speaker **Mr. Mallikarjun B. Shintri, a practicing CPA with over 30+ years of experience** and was aided by Mr. Nishant Jain, active member of JVB Center with over 15+ years of experience. 40+ people attended this informative & interactive workshop.



JVB Houston hosted Holi ke Hindi Bol:

JVB Houston hosted IHA Houston's signature program "Holi Ke Hindi Bol" 3rd year in a row. JVB Director Pramod Bengani & the President, Seema Jain were the MC of this 3-hour program. 3 kids of JVB Gyanshala, Khushi Kawedia, Shivani Jain & Vani Jain inaugurated the program with lamp lighting & enthralled the audience with Guru Bhajan & Holi poems.

16th Annual Family Camp from Mar 25th- 27th centered around "Change your attitude- Change your life."

JVB Center, Houston conducted its 16th Annual 3-day and 2-night Family Retreat Camp with a unique theme "Change your attitude; Change your life" under the spiritual guidance and presence of Samani Vikas Pragyaji and Samani Maryada Pragyaji. About 75+ campers from all over the state of Austin, San Antonio, and the Greater Houston area came along to enjoy the calm and scenic surroundings while nurturing their soul through powerful discourses, laughing yoga, meditation and relaxation techniques. Samani Vikas Pragyaji interactive lecture series part I, II & III on the theme of the camp, Interactive sessions for the young kids group on "What makes you big"& youth group on "Make the World yours" by Samani Maryada Pragyaji, "Top Ten Values to stop Negative Attitude" by Pramod Bengani, "Learn values with fun" for younger group by Hemang Vora and for youth group "Enhance your life with positive attitude" by Mukta Jain, an Interesting Jain Quiz based on a unique Stock market theme & Cultural evening were the highlights of this unique camp.



2nd I-choose workshop on "Dealing with Uncertainty with Certainty"

The second workshop of I-Choose on Dealing with Uncertainty with Certainty Conducted by distinguished speaker Mr. Alok Jain, a highly informative & interactive workshop.

2 day Silent Preksha Meditation Camp aspired for Art & Science of Self Discovery



55 Preksha Meditators participated in a mega 2-day meditation camp in the calm & blissful surroundings of JVB Center under the spiritual presence & guidance of 4 Samanijis. Samani Shukla Pragyaji & Samani Rohit Pragyaji from FIU, Miami was the guest of honor. The camp started with a Preksha Geet & vow of silence for the duration of the camp and had soul enriching activities such as Color & Mantra Meditation techniques, Kayotsarg, Aahar Yog Sadhana, Yoga, Pranayam & three special Discourses on "Preksha Meditation; Why to Learn, Preksha Meditation; How to learn & "Preksha Meditation; Technique of Color Perception." Open Discussion & Feedback session was appreciated by one & all and everyone went home with a resolve to attend the Monthly Preksha Meditation Camp on the 2nd Saturday of every month.

Upcoming Events:

Visit www.jvbhouston.org for events and activities. Our daily Schedule can be viewed at the following - <http://jvbhouston.org/dailyschedule.htm>

News from JVB New Jersey Center



Inaugural of Center for Peace & Meditation

December 15, 2015 will go down in the history of JVBNA as an important milestone. A vision of a bigger center, which would be capable of supporting the rising needs of our community which allow us to expand our program in meaningful way to engage the society on the path to spiritual growth, took its very first step towards fruition. With the blessings of Acharyashri Mahashraman and spiritual guidance from Samanijis, we finally acquired the property on 155 Front Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080



New Year, Jaap, AGM, EC Oath

JVBNA New Jersey celebrated the New Year 2016 at the JVBNA Center for Peace and Meditation, under the auspicious guidance of Samani Dr. Satya Pragyaji and Samani Dr. Rohini Pragyaji. Samani Dr. Satya Pragyaji announced and blessed the EC 2016 team and an oath ceremony followed.



Maryada Mahotsav

Under the auspicious guidance of Samani Satya Pragyaji and Samani Rohini Pragyaji, JVB New Jersey celebrated Maryada Mahotsav on Feb 12-14 at the Iselin Center. This celebration was a symbolic representation of the grand Maryada Mahotsav that was celebrated under the auspicious guidance of Acharyashri Mahashraman in Kishanganj, Bihar, India on the same three days.



Holi Milan

Holi Milan on Jan 19 was celebrated under the auspicious presence of Samani Satya Pragyaji, Samani Shukla Pragyaji, Samani Rohini Pragyaji, and Samani Rohit Pragyaji. The program comprised of Samanijis' enlightening speeches, colorful programs from the JVB Gyanshala and Youth Forum children, and melodious songs by JVBNA choir.



Swagat Samaroh

Samanijis' Sawagat Samaroh, welcome program for Samanji Sanmati Pragyaji and Samanji Jayant Pragyaji was held on April 9, 2016 at the Center for Peace and Meditation. The program comprised of Swagat Geet by the JVBNA choir, Swagat speeches by members and blessings from Samanijis.

Upcoming Programs

JVBNA Online Classroom - 2nd Quarter - Ajeev 101 - Ongoing - Registration is open
Path of Ahimsa – Mahavir Jayanti, Akshay Tritiya & Tribute to Gurus - Saturday, May 7 - CPAM
Gyanshala Annual Day - Sunday, Jun 5 - Center for Peace & Meditation (CPAM)
Annual Spiritual Family Camp featuring 6 Samanijis - Jun 10, 11 and 12 - Arsh Vidya, Poconos, PA



News from Miami FIU

Bhagavan Mahavir Nirvan Lecture at FIU

On 9th November 2015, under the Bhagavan Mahavir Nirvan Lecture Series of Jain Studies Program, Prof. Tara Sethia was invited to speak on “Non-violence: An educational Imperative” from Poly Tech University, Pamona. Event started with the welcome speech of Dr. Vose, director of the Jain Studies Program. Samani Shukla Pragya in her introductory speech said about the significance of Non-violence in modern world. Prof. Tara Sethia, in her talk gave data of increasing violence in schools and other academic and educational institution. Event was attended by students and faculties of FIU.

Skype Lecture in Loyola Marymount University

On March 9, 2016, at the request of the Clinical Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies

at Loyola Marymount University, Dr. Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa, Dr. Samani Rohit Pragya gave a Skype Lecture to her undergraduate, upper division, Jainism class on Asceticism and Anekantavada. Students were happy to have the opportunity to ask questions and receiving the satisfactory responses



The Sixth Annual Mahavir Jayanti Lecture at FIU

On 23rd March 2016, the event of sixth annual Bhagavan Mahavir Jayanti lecture was started with Mahamantra followed by short speech reflecting on unique principles and rich culture of Jainism by Dr. Samani Rohit Pragya. The lecture on “Locating Jainism in Maharashtra” was delivered by Prof. Whitney Kelting, associate professor of religious studies, North eastern university. Prof. Whitney, in her lecture discussed about new temples being built in Maharashtra which are not sited on Jain spaces of mytho-historical importance.

Preksha Meditation Club at FIU

Preksha Meditation Club remained active in spring semester 2016. It coordinated monthly meditation classes for students, faculty and staff in the Graham Center. At the request of Prof. Pushya, eight Sessions of Guided Meditation for Relaxation were conducted at Law Library.

Mahavir Jayanti at Jain Temple, Miami

On 17th April 2016, On the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti, organised by Jain temple of South Florida, Miami, Samanijis presented their views on “Significance of Celebrating Mahavir Jayanti”. Along with Samanijis’ speech program was consisted of various cultural presentations.

