

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON
THE DATING OF NIRVAN OF
MAHAVIRASWAMI

June 2022

Naval Veerayatan, Pune, India

Jain Center of Greater Boston (USA)
International Center of Jainism and Science (New Delhi)
JAINA Academic Liasion Committee

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



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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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6. 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.

1. The Jaina Sources of The History of Ancient India: A book by Jyoti Prasad Jain
2. History of Jainism in Hindi: Vol I, II and III, by Kailas Chandra Jain
3. 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) <u>Jain Center of Greater Boston (JCGB)</u> Haresh Tamboli, Boston, President	<u>JAINA</u> Mahesh Wadher President <u>JAINA-Academic Liaison Committee</u> Dr. Sulekh Jain
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New Delhi

Respected Scholars:

November 7th, 2021

We are delighted to receive an enthusiastic response for the international symposium ‘Dating of Nirvana of Tirthankar Mahavir’ which is tentatively planned in June 2022 at Pune, India, which will be a truly historic event.

Based on our preliminary review of the reference materials, it is clear that the Indian and Western Historians have been debating the issues such as beginning of Saka Samvat, Vikram Samvat, Dating of Mahavir Nirvan, Dating of Buddha Nirvan, Coronation of King Chandra Gupta, and Coronation of King Ashok. It is very likely that most of the papers will include some reference to the aforementioned dating and, an in-depth familiarity of these topics will be an essential item for you all. Keeping that in mind and in appreciation of your enthusiasm and efforts, we are delighted to provide the following books/papers to the first 20 scholars who are 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.

1. The Jaina Sources of The History of Ancient India: A book by Jyoti Prasad Jain
2. History of Jainism in Hindi: Vol I, II and III, by Kailas Chandra Jain
3. 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.

Based on our preliminary research, we have compiled a list of suggested research topics which are listed in attachment A. We request you to please carefully review this list and select a subject of your research paper and submit the initial 250 to 400 words abstract to us **no later than 31st January, 2022**. Please note that the suggested list of topics is provided only as an aid; however, any relevant topics will be considered.

Please note that we are departing from the original announcement in that the symposium is open to all and, there is no selection of 7-9 scholars. All scholars who have interest and have general knowledge of this subject are invited to submit abstracts.

Abstract Guidelines:

Please separately provide key words and phrases for indexing, abstracting, and retrieval purposes.

Please follow following guidelines while preparing abstract.

1. All running text, including the abstract.
2. Right justified, single-spaced, and in Times New Roman size 10 font.
3. We prefer South Asia Roman Fonts that will allow insertions of diacritical marks.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mukesh Doshi and Pankajkumar Shah

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New Delhi

Dear Scholars:

We would like to clarify that we have very limited supply of following reference material, which will be provided only to those scholars who are committed and serious about providing us an abstract and then writing a scholarly paper about the subject matter.

1. The Jaina Sources of The History of Ancient India: A book by Jyoti Prasad Jain
2. History of Jainism in Hindi: Vol I, II and III, by Kailas Chandra Jain
3. A binder containing copies of selected relevant papers of the subject matter
4. A list of the suggested topics for the papers

Please send your request for the reference materials by email along with your postal address to Mr. Manish Modi at hindipremi1912@gmail.com, who is also copied this email, with a cc to me also. Please note that we will not be able to ship this reference material outside India.

In the event, we are unable to provide you printed copies of the above reference material, most of the material is available on google drive at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zfVo6lZ9OXJRhIHfjBxeRHYrSaLRNZxg?usp=sharing>

We would like to draw your attention to another very good reference which is a Hindi book:

Aagam Aur Tripitak Ek Anushilan by Rashtra Sant Muni Shri Nagarajaji

“आगम और त्रिपिटक एक अनुशिलन” by राष्ट्र संत मुनि श्री नागराजजी

This book was published by Concept Publishing Co in New Delhi in 1987 which has nearly 90 pages chapter dedicated on the subject matter.

We would again like to stress the importance of the subject symposium and request participation by all the scholars receiving this email. Please note that we have extended the last date for submitting the abstract to 31st January. We will provide our comments to all the abstracts within three weeks of receiving your abstracts.

Thank you.

From:

Pankaj Shah JCGB _Boston	Mukesh Doshi JCMC - Chicago	Sulekh Jain JAINA ALC Chair	Shugan Jain Chief ICJS New Delhi
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