Shri VRG Committee – Announcing National Essay Contest Winners!

During summer and fall of 2020, Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi (VRG) Memorial Committee hosted an essay contest for Jain youth in the USA and Canada. The contest was open to Jain youth ages 14-29 years.

In an effort to engage and inspire today’s youth, the committee chose a very interesting topic:

“Jainism in the Western World – The Beginning, Progress and the Future. My commitment to take it forward towards the 22nd Century.”

1st place Winner ($250 Cash Award)

Aneri Shah, Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington

Her other Accomplishments:

- Secretary of Japanese National Honor Society
- Publicist of Art club
- Graphic designer and writer for student-run science newsletter
- Winner of BioCode competition

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2nd place Winner ($150 Cash Award)

Diksha Kurva, Jain Society of Houston

Her other Accomplishments:
- Advanced to HOSA State in 2019
- She plays the ukulele
- Honor Roll since elementary school
- Recognized for several photographs that she has taken

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3rd place Winner ($100 Cash Award)

Shaan Udani, Jain Center of New Jersey

His other Accomplishments:
- He is a freshman at Seton Hall Prep in New Jersey and in the Seton Scholars program.
- His work has been published in the John’s Hopkins literary journal for talented youth.
- He has been attending pathsala since elementary school.
- He plays tabla and has been training for the last ten years.

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Congratulations to All Winners!

We thank all center presidents, pathsala teachers, judges, leaders of YJA, YJP and various sub-committees and JAINA leadership and Board of Directors for their active support for this national initiative to engage Jain youth.

We are also pleased to report that the specific criteria and scoring system was established prior to the evaluation, and identities of participants were not disclosed to the judges to avoid any chance of bias. They were totally independent in their review.

We are also happy to note the diverse participation of students from across a number of JAINA regions.

For additional information, please contact:

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