अहिंसा परमो धर्मः*
International School for Jain Studies
(A Division of Amar Prerana Trust)
C/o Firodia Hostel, 844, BMCC Road, Shivaji Nagar
Pune - 411 004 (MH), INDIA
Email: info@isjs.in ; eb: www.isjs.in

Celebrating 2,550th Nirvāṇa (Liberation) Anniversary of Lord Mahāvīra

Dear Esteemed Scholars,

Wishing you good health, happiness and peace.

On the auspicious occasion of Diwali/Deepawali 2,550 years ago, Lord Mahāvīra, the 24th and latest *tīrthaṅkara* of Jainism, attained liberation (state of *mokṣa*) at Pāvāpurī, Bihar (India). Jain community worldwide is celebrating and commemorating the year (Diwali, November 12th, 2023 to November 11th, 2024) as Mahāvīra Nirvāṇa year with great fervor and grandeur.

Lord Mahāvīra, distinguished by numerous virtues, particularly his unwavering commitment to the principle of nonviolence (*ahiṁsā*) and non-absolutism (*anekāntvāda*), self-effort and restraint to attain lasting happiness for individuals, communities and the world at large. He was also one of the greatest Social Engineers and reformers of his time and practiced what he taught.

As a part of our continued effort to promote academic studies of Jainism, we are reaching out to you with a request to undertake activities involving critical and academic exploration of various facets of his life, his era, his teachings and their contemporary relevance in 21st century society inflicted with wars, climate change and arrogance of some to dominate the world. Towards this end, we encourage you to consider organizing courses, classes, classroom discussions, research papers, seminars, conferences, publications, research projects, and fieldwork centered around him and his teachings. We are attaching a list of potential study and research topics related to Lord Mahāvīra for your perusal.

We eagerly await your participation and insights as we collectively delve into his wisdom and legacy to shed light on his profound teachings and their significance in our modern world for greater and sustainable peace, prosperity and happiness substantiated by our research and experiences. We offer our assistance in sharing efforts in organizing such activities and cataloguing your contributions for reference later.

Warm regards,

scjain

Sulekh Jain Shugan C. Jain

Encl: as above