Dr. Manish Mehta, Chair of JAINA Diaspora Committee organized and moderated two sessions on November 3 on the topic “Interfaith Collaborations for Sustainability” at the 2018 Parliament of World Religions emphasizing ways to simultaneously **Reduce Our Carbon Footprint and Karmic Footprint**.

Both sessions were conceived at the invitation of EcoCiv: Toward Ecological Civilization ([www.EcoCiv.org](http://www.EcoCiv.org)), a San Diego-based non-profit organization founded by Dr. Philip Clayton, former President of Claremont School of Theology – is a key partner and contributor of western scholars to participate in JAINA’s International School for Jain Studies.

(A) “Interfaith Collaborations for Sustainability,” and
(B) “Small But Mighty: How Jains Leverage Vital Partnerships to Achieve Eco-Justice”

The aim of these two Parliament sessions was two-fold: (1) To illustrate how our Jain beliefs in Non-Violence and Jain Way of Life recognize the inter-dependence of life and balancing of consumption and economic activity with ecology and environment; and (2) To illustrate how Jains live and work, make positive career choices, and influence other faiths (in spite of our small population in the world) on the ecological front due to our ability to partner and leverage with interfaith groups and civic organizations, which allows Jains to promote our core values of compassion and care for humans and all life forms.

In both sessions, invited speakers – representing the Christian, Hindu, Sikh and Jain faiths – shared multimedia presentations and case studies from their leadership in interfaith sustainability initiatives to achieve behavior change:

- **“Eating with the Heart: Jainism, Vegetarianism, Non-Violence and Ecology.”** How a vegan lifestyle significantly reduces our energy and environmental impacts by Dr. Tushar Mehta, Canada;

- **“A Conceptual Framework for Understanding Inter-dependencies in the Climate-Water-Energy-Food-Health Nexus.”** Assuring water quality for all through interfaith partnerships to solve complex infrastructure, waste-minimization and resilience challenges by Hardeep Anand, FL, USA;

- **“Religion in the New Machine Age.”** Recognizing the pitfalls of automation and Artificial Intelligence, and how drastically the future of faith-based civilizations may be affected by AI and so-called smart technologies by Rajesh Jain, Kolkata, India;

- **“Common Health Plus: A Genesis of Binary Humancare and Collaborations for Pop-Up Eye Care.”** Uplifting the downtrodden and underserved populations of Jamaica with low-cost shipping container-based eyecare and dental clinics incorporating new health care and telemedicine initiatives by Dr. Joseph Myers, MI, USA;
“Project Dignity: Empowering the Rural Women and Girls in Sundarbans, India with In-home Toilets.” A unique sanitation-focused project by Rotary International Foundation that gifts low-cost, in-home toilets made with durable structures which benefit villagers in Bengal with safety, privacy, good health and educational/vocational opportunities, thereby protecting the rich biodiversity of the Sundarbans Dr. Manish Mehta, MI, USA).

Following photograph shows the speakers from the Parliament session described above: L-R are Hardeep Anand, Rajesh Jain, Manish Mehta and Joseph Myers. Dr. Tushar Mehta is shown in the second photo.