



**2024** A REVIEW  
IN PICTURES





Dr Mehool H Sanghrajka MBE  
Managing Trustee  
Institute of Jainology

Jai Jinendra!

The Directors of the Institute of Jainology (IOJ) are delighted to share this review of our year with you. 2024 has been a year of transition for the Institute with our Chairman, Shri Nemubhai Chandaria stepping down after almost 35 years in post.

We have had a bumper year with 10 major events including a major OneJAIN celebration of the 2,550 anniversary of Mahavir Nirvan Kalyanak, and dialogue with HH The Pope at the Vatican.

We continue to drive awareness of the Jain faith and the united UK 'OneJAIN' community with a focus on government matters, interfaith relations and major UK institutions.

We hope you enjoy our annual review and look forward to your participation at our events in 2025.

With all good wishes  
Mehool





April 2024

House of Commons

# Celebrating Mahavir Janma Kalyanak

The Jain All-Party Parliamentary Group, under the secretariat of the Institute of Jainology, held its annual celebration of Mahavir Janma Kalyanak at the House of Commons. At the event, the Wellcome Collection symbolically presented the IOJ with a copy of an ancient manuscript to mark the forthcoming restitution of the 2,000 folio collection. The IOJ has committed to lend this collection to the University of Birmingham for teaching and research.

The annual OneJAIN awards were presented by Hon. Bob Blackman MP, Chair of the 1922 Committee. The awardees were:

- Excellence in the Community Award – Sonal Mehta
- Young Persons Award – Dr. Suraj Bafna
- Highly Commended Award – Chandrakant Shah. MBE
- Special Lifetime Achievement Award – Nemu Chandaria. OBE





Wellcome Trust presenting the manuscript to Nemubhai and Jaysukhbhai of IOJ

May 2024

10 Downing Street

# Celebrating Mahavir Janma Kalyanak

The IOJ assisted in organising the first celebration of Mahavir Janma Kalyanak at 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister's official residence.

Over 120 Jains attended the event, representing community leaders, members of the Armed Forces, academics, curators of major institutions and those who have excelled in their vocation.

The event was hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Sir Oliver Dowden MP.





July 2024

Harrow Leisure Centre

# OneJAIN Celebrating Mahavir Nirvan Kalyanak

In 2024, the global Jain community celebrated the 2,550 Nirvan of Bhagwan Mahavir. In the UK, several OneJAIN communities organised the first major event with over 2,000 Jains present at Harrow Leisure Centre to witness spiritual song, dances and speeches in celebration.

The event started with a procession through Harrow and was telecast on national TV and with over 10,000 views on the live YouTube stream.

The Indian Government was represented by the High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Vikram K. Doraiswami







October 2024  
Trafalgar Square

# Diwali in London

In collaboration with the Hindu community, OneJAIN participated in organising and delivering major Diwali celebrations in Trafalgar Square, London. This was part of our celebrations of the 2,550 anniversary of Mahavir Nirvan Kalyanak.

Tens of thousands attended the cultural and dance event, with several Jain communities participating on stage.



# e Jain – Institute of Jainology



*Happy Navratri*

*Happy Navratri*



October 2024

House of Commons

# Celebrating Ahimsa Day

In 2024, the IOJ celebrated its 21st consecutive annual Ahimsa Day at the House of Commons with the Jain All-Party Parliamentary Group. The day coincides with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, often called the Apostle of Peace.

At the event, Shri Surendra Patawari, a Jain businessman running a global environmental and recycling business from Belgium, was presented the 19th Annual Ahimsa Award. The Award is given to those who personify the spirit of non-violence and compassion. Former winners were Shri Jasvant Modi (2023), Shri Kumarpal Desai (2022) and Shri Satish Kumar (2021). Other notable winners have been HM The King and HH the Dalai Lama.





October 2024  
Oshwal Centre

# New UK Faith Minister, Lord Khan Visits Jain Temple

The new Minister for Faith, Lord Khan of Burnley, visited the Jain temple at Oshwal Centre in Potters Bar. During the event, the Minister met with the community and held a roundtable with OneJAIN leaders to discuss support for the Jain community.

He reiterated the Government's support for the OneJAIN manifesto, launched at the last election.





October 2024

10 Downing Street

# Jains Celebrate Diwali at No. 10

The Jain community, together with other Dharmic faiths, celebrated Diwali at the annual reception at 10 Downing Street. The event was hosted, for the first time, by the new Prime Minister, Sir Kier Starmer.







**November 2024**

**Cenotaph, Whitehall, London**

# Remembrance Sunday

The Jain community took its place in the annual Remembrance Day service led by HM The King.

The service, held at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, commemorates all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice during and since the World Wars.

The Jain community paid its respects to those whose sacrifice has resulted in many years of peace and stability.





November 2024  
The Vatican

# Vatican Visit

In November 2024, the IOJ lead an international delegation to the Vatican for dialogue with the Catholic church. The IOJ has maintained strong relations with the Vatican resulting in many interfaith activities, This was the IOJ's 4th delegation to Rome in the past 30 years.

The delegation were blessed by HH the Pope, and the dialogue resulted in convergence between the two faiths in the philosophies of Ahimsa and Anekantvada.

They agreed to add their voices to those calling for immediate action to avoid the imminent environmental catastrophe and to reduce the high levels of human suffering globally.





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**December 2024**

**Westminster Abbey, London**

# Christmas Service

The IOJ represented the Jain faith in celebration of the peoples of the Commonwealth Nations and at the Christmas Service at Westminster Abbey. The services, held by the Anglican Church, included members of the other major faiths and the Royal Family.

**March 2024**

**Commonwealth Service**





**December 2024**  
**Stanmore, London**

# Our New Home

The Institute of Jainology is delighted to open its new dedicated office in the UK.

The office has a boardroom with video conferencing facilities, and multiple meeting and working spaces.

The office will provide key infrastructure for the growth and activities of the Institute, and allow better coordination amongst trustees, volunteers and other Jain organisations.







Institute of  
Jainology





## About the Institute of Jainology

Our mission is to bring awareness and promote the Jain faith and its communities in government, interfaith matters and at universities, national libraries and museums.

## For more information

Email: [info@jainology.org](mailto:info@jainology.org)

Website: [www.jainology.org](http://www.jainology.org)

Find us on Social



## About OneJAIN

We represent the collaboration of all 35 UK Jain organisations under the OneJAIN banner. Together, these organisations represent a community of at least 65,000 people, many of whom play an outsized role in civic and community life, as well as excelling across professional, business, and academic pursuits.

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