

Navkar Mahamantra Divas: Celebrating Mahavir Jayanti

10th April, 2025

“The literature of Jainism is the backbone of India’s intellectual grandeur. Preserving this knowledge is our duty”- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

India reverently celebrates Mahavir Jayanti, a day that resonates with deep spiritual significance and profound peace, as it commemorates the birth of **Lord Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism**. More than a festival, it is a heartfelt tribute to a life devoted to compassion, self-restraint, and truth. In a world often clouded by conflict and chaos, Lord Mahavir’s eternal message of *ahimsa (non-violence)*, *satya (truth)*, and *inner awakening* shines brighter than ever, guiding countless souls toward a more mindful and harmonious existence.

This year, the spirit of Mahavir Jayanti was powerfully invoked through the inauguration of **Navkar Mahamantra Divas** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 9.

"Navkar Mantra is not just a mantra but the core of our faith and the essence of life."



The **Navkar Mantra**, central to Jain prayer, is more than a collection of sacred syllables, it is a rhythmic flow of energy, stability, and light.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, reflecting on his own roots in Gujarat, spoke of how Jain Acharyas shaped his

understanding from an early age. This personal connection reinforced his message that **Jainism is not merely historical but deeply relevant**, especially in an India that seeks to grow without losing its roots.

This relevance is embodied in the architectural and cultural fabric of modern India, be it the depiction of **Sammed Shikhar** at the new Parliament’s entrance or the return of ancient Tirthankara idols from overseas. These are not artifacts of nostalgia; they are **living symbols of India’s spiritual continuity**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described climate change as today's biggest crisis, saying its solution is a sustainable lifestyle, which the Jain community has practiced for centuries. The Jain community has been living the principles of simplicity, restraint, and sustainability for centuries. Lord Mahavir's timeless teachings align beautifully with **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, a national call for sustainable living.

Jainism's emblem, "*Parasparopagraho Jivanam*", meaning the mutual interdependence of all life offers a deeply ecological worldview.

Nine Resolutions for a New India

In a poetic tribute to the power of "nine" in Indian and Jain traditions, the Prime Minister proposed **nine resolutions** anchored in the Navkar Mantra, each a commitment to knowledge, action, harmony, and rooted progress. He noted how repeating the mantra nine times, or in its multiples like 27, 54, or 108 represents spiritual completeness and intellectual clarity.

First Resolution: Water Conservation- Emphasizing the need to value and save every drop of water.

Second Resolution: Plant a tree in Mother's Name- Planting of over 100 crore trees in recent months and urging everyone to plant a tree in their mother's name and nurture it like her blessings.

Third Resolution: Cleanliness Mission – Understanding the importance and contributing to cleanliness in every street, neighbourhood and city.

Fourth Resolution: Vocal for Local- Promotion of locally made products, turning them global and supporting items that carry the essence of Indian soil and the sweat of Indian workers.

Fifth Resolution: Explore India- To explore India's diverse states, cultures, and regions before traveling abroad, emphasizing the uniqueness and value of every corner of the country.

Sixth Resolution: Adopting Natural Farming- The Jain principle of "One living being should not harm another", and for freeing Mother Earth from chemicals, supporting farmers, and promoting natural farming.

Seventh Resolution: Healthy Lifestyle- Following Indian dietary traditions, including millets (Shri Anna), reducing oil consumption by 10%, and maintaining health through moderation and restraint.

Eighth Resolution: Incorporating Yoga and Sports- Making yoga and sports a part of daily life, whether at home, work, school, or parks, to ensure physical health and mental peace.

Ninth Resolution: Helping the Poor- Assisting the underprivileged, whether by holding a hand or filling a plate, as the true essence of service.

These resolutions align with the principles of Jainism and the vision of a sustainable and harmonious future.

Jain literature, etched in **Prakrit and Pali**, holds profound treasures of thought. The government's initiative to grant these languages classical status and digitize Jain manuscripts under the **Gyan Bharatam Mission** is a tribute to this ancient wisdom.

In March 2024, the Ministry of Minority Affairs approved projects under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) Scheme for the establishment of 'Centre for Jain Studies' in Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV) in Indore. With financial assistance of **₹25 crore**, this centre aims to preserve and promote Jain heritage, foster interdisciplinary research, and enhance global understanding of Jainism as a way of life. It will support digitization of ancient Jain texts, facilitate academic research, and serve as a hub for students and scholars to engage with Jain teachings, traditions, and practices, while also promoting community engagement and awareness.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs in the past also approved a project focused on preserving Jain culture through digitization of manuscripts, knowledge sharing, and promoting interdisciplinary research on Jain traditions.



On Mahavir Jayanti in April 2024, a commemorative stamp and coin on the occasion of 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav.

As India marches on the path of becoming a developed nation, Lord Mahavir's message of inner conquest, compassion, and truth offers a guiding light. In the harmony of the Navkar Mantra, in the discipline of the Sadhus, and in the interdependence of life itself, not just for individuals, but for the whole world.

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