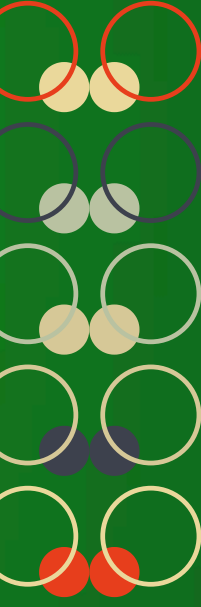


# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5 June



1



In the universe are billions of galaxies,  
In our galaxy are billions of planets,  
But there is Only ONE EARTH.

We only have ONE EARTH - Let's take care of it.  
THE SCIENCE IS CLEAR, AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT.  
We must go from harming the planet to healing it.

## Jain View

If You Don't Care for Environment | Nature  
You Don't Care for Yourself

The Jain faith with its emphasis on non-violence, compassion and self-restraint teaches to live in harmony with nature, to forgive and be friendly with all living beings in the world and to reduce one's needs wherever possible.



**Jainism, despite its antiquity holds a modern relevance in its gentle warnings of the importance of caring for all life and our environment.**

**Jainism quietly foreshadows some of the significance and impact that our beliefs and daily habits can have on global survival.**

**Jainism is an eco-friendly religion, whose philosophy and way of life preserves and protects the earth and the environment**



## **BHAGWAN MAHAVIRA**

whose entire life was an example on how to live in perfect harmony with nature and the environment, stated a profound ecological truth :

**“One who disregards the existence of earth, water, fire, air and vegetation, disregards his own existence which is intertwined with them”**

**“One who knows the demerit of the destruction of plants and trees, knows the merit of reverence for nature”**



# Parasparopagraho Jivanam

## All Life Is Bound Together By Mutual Support and Interdependence

4

It is universally accepted that we are facing an environmental and ecological crisis. The Earth we inhabit is in grave danger, afflicted by rapidly increasing global ecological threats such as the depletion of the ozone layer, global warming, massive deforestation, the extinction of many species and loss of biodiversity, poisonous toxic chemicals and nuclear wastes and exponential population growth. This are all as a consequence of mankind's greed, ignorance, violent and unrestrained exploitation and use of the Earth's natural resources. Centuries of rapacious exploitation of the environment has finally caught with us and radically changed attitude towards nature is now not a question of spiritual merit or condescension, but of sheer survival.

Jainism teaches that all matter - Living and non-living - is bound together by mutual support and interdependence. Life is viewed as a gift, lived only with the support from the interdependent web of all creation. With this understanding, harming another living being inevitably means harming ourselves. In recent years, with increased awareness about our environment, this ancient but yet very contemporary in its promise Jain concept of **Parasparopagraho Jivanam** has gained relevance in this modern age and has been embraced by many environmental organisations in the world. Parasparopagraho Jivanam forms the basis of modern-day science of ecology and ecological consciousness.



**WORLD** 5 June  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
**DAY**



**The Jain ecological philosophy, comprising of its main tenets of Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya and Aparigraha provide the basis of addressing environmental issues currently facing us.**

### **Ahimsa – non violence**

Ahimsa not only towards human beings but also towards the entire nature. Mahavir stated “As you want to live, do so to others.” – “others” – he included not only all living beings that can move, but also air, water, earth and vegetation.

Recognising the soul in all of creation, one appreciates the sacredness of fragile ecosystems, all beings and ourselves.

### **Satya – truthfulness.**

Satya means understanding and realizing the true nature of existence and true nature of oneself. To lessen our ignorance, Satya promotes the need for widespread environmental education to understand the repercussions of our actions, intentionally or unintentionally.

### **Ahimsa – non violence**

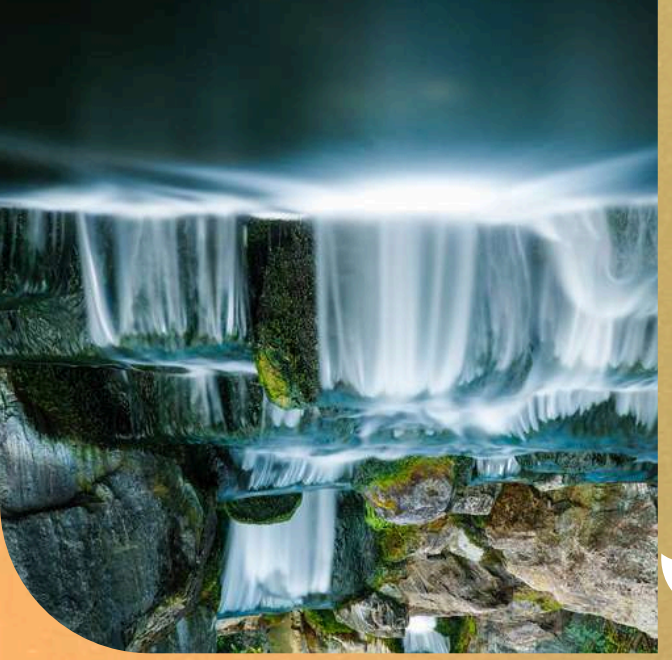
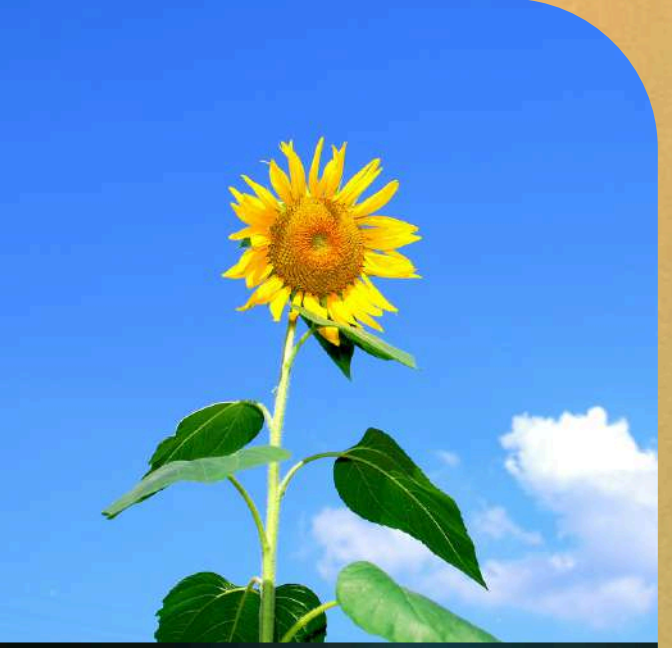
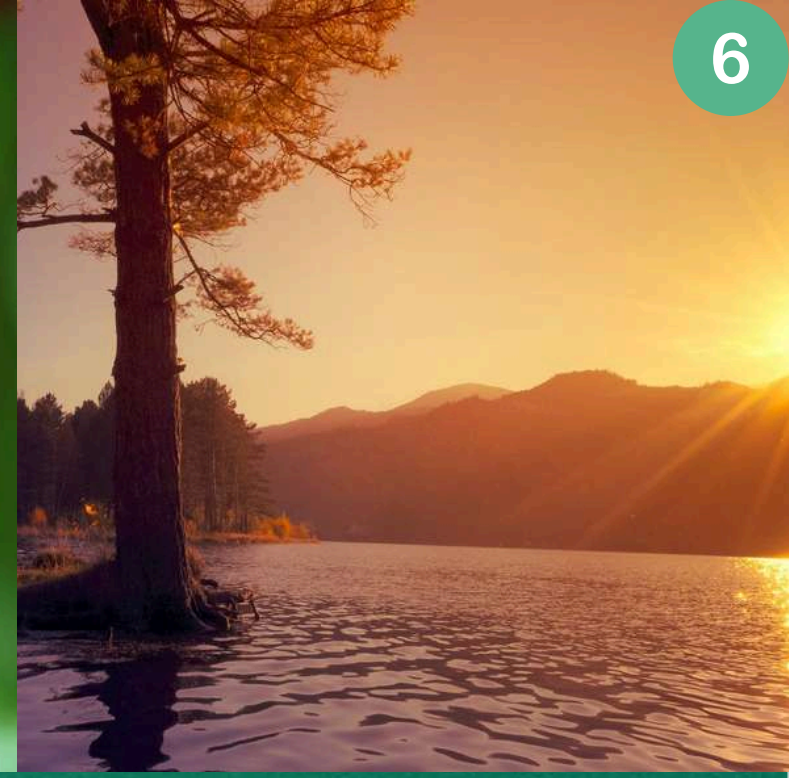
The practice of Ahimsa results in an individual Jiva daya (compassion, empathy and charity). Jiva daya means caring for and sharing with all living beings, tending, protecting and serving them. It entails universal friendliness (maitri), universal forgiveness (kshama) and universal fearlessness (abhaya).

### **Asetya – non stealing.**

Refraining from acquiring goods and services beyond our essential needs. Taking more from nature than our essential needs amounts to stealing from nature. If we are using up finite resources at a greater speed than they can be replenished, then we are stealing from future generations.



**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY** 5 June



**Aparigraha**  
**non-accumulation and non- possessiveness.**

Earth provides enough to satisfy everybody's need, but not enough for anybody's greed. In terms of our environment, Aparigraha means living simply and sharing. It is a form of "downsizing" – the process of consuming less for the benefit of the self and others. When we spend too much time in the care of possessions there is no time for the care of the soul.

**The Jain Declaration on Nature, 1990**

"As a highly evolved form of life, human beings have a great moral responsibility in their mutual dealings and in their relationship with the rest of the universe. It is this conception of life and its eternal coherence, in which human beings have an inescapable ethical responsibility, that made the Jain tradition a cradle for the creed of environmental protection and harmony"

