



Paryushan

Oshwal Association of the UK | Charity Reg. No. 267037

31st Aug to 7th Sept 2024

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1 - SANGH PUJAA

Venerate the four-fold order by respectfully providing for the needs of ascetics & offer gifts to laypeople of the sangh

2 - SADHARIK BHAKTI

Reverence and welfare of fellow Jains

3 - YATRA TRIK

Pilgrimage to three Jain temples, participating in pujas

4 - SNATRA PUJA

At least once a year to participate in Snatra Puja

5 - DEV DRAVYA

Raising or donating funds for the maintenance, renovation, construction of temple & religious activity

6 - MAHAPUJA

Elaborate pujans which involve the decorations of Jin Pratimas, Derasars. These pujas are intended to encourage devotees to come to the Derasar for worship

7 - RATRI JAGRAN

Singing of hymns and performing religious observances throughout the night on auspicious days.

8 - SHRUT (GYAN) PUJA

Veneration of scriptures - devotional puja of scriptures

9 - UDYAAPAN

Concluding ritual - involves the display of objects of worship, making gifts to participants in the final day ceremonies of auspicious religious observances.

10 - SHASHAN PRABHAVNA

Promote Jainism and Jain Way of Life on auspicious days and occasions

11 - ALOCHNA PURVA

Atonement (suddhi) - Confession before a Guru

1 - SANGH PUJAA



Venerate the four-fold order - Chaturavidh Sangh - by respectfully providing for the needs of ascetics & offer gifts to laypeople of the sangh. The Chaturavidh Sangh is of the people, by the people, for the people, and is regarded as the 25 Tirthankara. As such, the sangh has to be venerated and served with the same affection and devotion shown to the 24 Tirthankaras.

2 - SADHARMIK BHAKTI



Reverence and welfare of fellow Jains. "No other relation is as important or as precious as the one you share with your spiritual family". Sadharmik implies one who observes the same Dharma - i.e the spiritual path of Jainism to achieve liberation. Sadhu, sadhvis, shravak and shravika are called sadharmik and their reverence is known as Sadharmik Bhakti. Sadharmik bhakti should also be extended to others, not necessarily followers of the Jain faith.

Assisting the sadharmik, should not result in pride or a sense of superiority. Assistance to the Sadharmik should not be limited to a one-time donation such as food, cash or clothing but, wherever possible, to help the Sadharmik earn a livelihood for himself by giving job opportunities, upgrading skills, etc. Sadharmik bhakti does not necessarily require immense wealth, even assisting someone with only water or a bowl of rice, sharing one's skill can merit the benefits of the grandest Sadharmik Bhakti depending upon one's motive, abilities, purity and compassion.



3 - YATRA TRIK



Pilgrimage to three Jain temples, participating in pujas. Pilgrimage is an integral practice in the Jain faith. Jain pilgrimage sites bear witness to its glorious past and present. They symbolise devotion, philanthropy, selfless service, penance and illuminate the message of non-violence, non-acquisitiveness, equanimity as propounded by Tirthankaras, as preached by numerous Sadhus and Sadhvis and many other pious souls.

Pilgrimage In Jainism is known as Tirtha Yatra. The sacred places of pilgrimage are known as 'tirthas or tirthakshetras'. Late LM Singhvi wrote that a tirtha is a "source of spiritual and ethical inspiration, instruction and edification; it is meant to be a bridge for the aspirant to facilitate his 'crossing over' of the river of his worldly existence" – i.e the elimination of the birth-death-birth cycle called samsara.

The major pilgrimage sites include Shatrunjaya, Girnar, Pavapuri, Sammetashikhara, Mount Abu.

These pilgrimage sites are invariably situated on tops of hills or mountains, and often in beautiful natural surroundings which help in cultivating self-reflection, devotion, attitude of mindfulness and sometimes profoundly life changing experience.

Annals of Jainism have countless examples of splendid Tirth Yatras undertaken by King Vikram, Maharaja Kumarpal, Vastupal, Tejpal, Abu Sanghvi etc providing guidance, inspiration and motivation as to how we can perform Yatras with glory and compassion within our means.

Our scriptures also mention *Ashtahnika Yatra* – performing temple rituals in the correct manner and *Rath Yatra* which is a grand procession using a Rath or Chariot.





4 - SNATRA PUJA

At least once a year to participate in Snatra Puja.

- Snatra Puja has been created by Pandit Shri Veer Vijayji Maharaj in a very poetic style.
- The purpose of performing Snatra Puja is to perceive and praise the virtues and attributes of the supreme beings Jineshwar (24 Tirthankars), and thereby remembering to always conduct one's own daily life with the same supreme virtues and attributes.
- It illustrates the celebration of two of the auspicious (out of five) events (Kalyanaks) occurring in last life of Tirthankar Bhagwan.
- This Puja and celebration is for all Tirthankars and not specific to any particular one.
- Two Kalyanaks narrated in this Puja are Chyavan (conception) and Janma (birth) of Tirthankar. After this life the soul of Tirthankar reaches its climax and achieves liberation from life and death cycle (attains Moksha).
- This Puja recital explains the effect of Bhagwan's birth on the whole universe, narrates how glorious the occasion was and how much joys were shared by all the living souls including all heavenly souls.
- Finally, the Pooja concludes with Asht Prakari Pooja, extending wishes of Shanti (peace) to all living beings, and celebrating the event through Aarti, Mangal Divo, Shanti Kalash, and Chaitya Vandan.



5 - DEV DRAVYA

Raising or donating funds for Dev Draya. Our scriptures state that Dev Dravya are contingency funds to be used for the maintenance, renovation, construction of temple & religious activity. It is said that Dev Draya is the life-force of Jainism and its cultural heritage. It is not surprising that the primary wish for Jains settled aboard is the construction of Jain Derasar (temple) for the community.





6 - MAHAPUJA

Elaborate pujans which involve the decorations of Jin Pratimas, Derasars. These pujas are intended to encourage devotees to come to the Derasar for worship. The finest eco-friendly materials are used to decorate the derasar lavishly. It is said that the ambience and magnificence of the derasar on that day should beguile a non-Jain to enter the derasar for worship and to leave regular attendees spell bound, inspiring them to more spiritual up-liftment

8 - SHRUT (GYAN) PUJA

Veneration of scriptures – devotional puja of scriptures. Acharya Haribhadrasuriji stated “what would have been our spiritual state if we had not received the Agamas”. Jain Acharyas state ‘the more you read, the more you learn; the more you learn; the more you become aware of Jain philosophy and the more you become aware, the more you will strive from accumulating negative (pap) karmas.’ Jains are encouraged to dedicate some time each day to swadhyay (self-study), even if it is only reading a paragraph relating to Jainism. Inspiring and motivating others to study, clarifying, discussing and imparting good thoughts for application in daily life are also considered as service to Shrut Gyan and part of the duties of a shravak.



7 - RATRI JAGRAN

Singing of hymns and performing religious observances throughout the night on auspicious days such as Tirthankaras Kalyanaks, death anniversary (*Punyatithi*) of a revered Acharya, on days of Paryushan when one brings home the Kalpa Sutra or Mahavir Parnu (birth cradle). It is stated that the first *prahar* of the night – the first 3 hours should be spent in singing Jain stavans and the remaining time to spent in meditating upon the virtues of the Tirthnakara or acharya.

9 - UDYAAPAN

Concluding ritual – involves the display of objects of worship, making gifts to participants in the final day ceremonies of auspicious religious observances.

Udyaapan – also known as Ujamna is of three types:-

- **Gyan** – materials that assist in imparting and acquiring knowledge.
- **Darshan** – materials and equipment for use in the derasar.
- **Charitra** – materials and things used by Jain ascetics.



10 - SHASHAN PRABHAVNA



Promote Jainism and Jain Way of Life on auspicious days and special occasions, by various ways, such as highlighting significant life events of Tirthankaras, donating to the seven most important foundation pillars of Jainism, hosting welcome celebrations for Jain ascetics, serving food and money to the underprivileged, and protecting animals from slaughter. These acts of compassion, kindness, sincerity, and simplicity can inspire souls to follow the true path of Jainism.

11 - ALOCHNA PURVA



Atonement (suddhi) - one confesses faults in the presence of Guru (Jain ascetic, usually a Acharya) at least once a year and performs 'prayaschit' (penance) as recommended by the Guru. The person making confessions must be truthful and honest with his/her Guru - like a child is with his/her mother. 'To err is human, to acknowledge is divine'. It is said that souls who are honest and brave enough to acknowledge their faults and work to eradicate them and strive for spiritual development are on the right path to liberation.

A layperson living a worldly life can not avoid. knowingly and unknowingly accrue sins daily. The best remedy for this is Pratikraman. Our scriptures state that the amount of sins that can be eliminated, just by one Pratikraman, performed with full understanding and pure heart, is so great that 'it exceeds the amount of good karmas, punya that one accumulates, if one donated gold equivalent to the weight of all the mountains of Jambu Dweepo in the seven kshetras of Jainism'.

Sources: Various

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