


## JAIN STUDIES PROFESSORSHIP SET UP AT CSUN

3/4/2019

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BY A STAFF REPORTER

BUENA PARK, CA- A signing ceremony of an endowed Professorship in Jain Studies at California State University, Northridge was held at the Jain Center of Southern California here on Feb 23. Six officials of CSUN were present for the signing ceremony of the Bhagwan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies sponsored by...



Drs Meera and Jasvant Modi. Matt Rinnert, Asst. V.P. Development; Dr. Rick Talbot, Chair, Religious Studies, College of Humanities; Dr. Jackie Stallcup, Interim Dean, College of Humanities; Professor Dr. Phyllis Herman; Suren Seropian, Director of Development, College of Humanities; and Dr. Dianne Philiposian, former Director of Communities Health represented the University. Professor Christopher Chapple from Loyola Marymount University, Dr. Harvinder Sahota were also present as was Dr. Sulekh Jain who had flown in from Las Vegas for the ceremony. The event began with JCSC president Dr. Modi welcoming all and introducing Dr Nitin Saha the emcee and JCSC Chair of External Education Committee .Dr Modi, Rinnert,

Dr. Talbot, Dr. Stallcup and Dr. Jain took part in the lamp lighting ceremony. Dr. Shah then invited founder of International School of Jain Studies Dr. Jain to share his journey.

Jain said "with the progress of Jain academic education in Southern California, the greater LA area will become the Oxford or Harvard of Jain education in a year or so!" Prof Chapple then shared his views on Jain philosophy and its role in present academia. He stated that there is a great need for young people to be "gentle, truthful and authentic,

3/7/2019

Jain Studies Professorship Set Up at CSUN - India Journal

have good character and be honest, faithful, and do good work. The Jain philosophy of Aparigrah (non-possessiveness) will help in this."

Shah then requested CSUN officials to share their views. Dr. Talbot said " The Jain tradition does not impose on other traditions which is a very important trait". Rinnert said, "This philosophy will have tremendous impact on our students. Love and connectedness that your community has and desire to spread this is great. Its impact will be felt for decades and decades!" Dr. Modi wrapped the event up by sharing his thoughts on how the professorship at CSUN came about. Dr. Shah thanked all for attending.

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## Sikh Prayer Offered at AZ State Education Board Meet

PHOENIX, AZ—Dr. Jaswant Singh Sachdev was invited by the Arizona State Education Board to offer a Sikh prayer. A prayer of about 3 minutes was said at the start of the session on Feb. 25 at the Board head office in downtown Phoenix by Sachdev in the presence of all Board members as well as other attendees present to take part in the meeting.

Sachdev was contacted by the Board through Arizona Interfaith to offer a Sikh prayer. Sachdev said in a press release, "This was the first such opportunity for a representative of the Sikh community to offer a prayer at the Arizona State Education Board meeting. This is a step in the right direction in



Dr. Jaswant Singh Sachdev offering a prayer

spreading awareness of Sikhs."

The press release added that a few months ago, the Arizona State Board allowed for inclusion of information about the Sikh faith in school curriculum. This was the result of a concerted effort spearheaded by Anjleen Kaur and supported by the Sikh Coalition.

## Jain Studies Professorship Set Up at CSUN



Dr. Jasvant Modi (L) with CSUN officials at the signing ceremony

BY A STAFF REPORTER

BUENA PARK, CA—A signing ceremony of an endowed Professorship in Jain Studies at California State University, Northridge was held at the Jain Center of Southern California here on Feb. 23. Six officials of CSUN were present for the signing ceremony of the Bhagwan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies sponsored by Drs Meera and Jasvant Modi.

Matt Rinnert, Asst. V.P. Development; Dr. Rick Talbot, Chair, Religious Studies, College of Humanities; Dr. Jackie



The lamp lighting ceremony

Stallcup, Interim Dean, College of Humanities; Professor Dr. Phyllis Herman; Suren Seropian, Director of Development, College of Humanities; and Dr. Dianna Philibacter, former Di-

## VALLEY HINDU TEMPLE



During the holy days of Shri Raj Rajeshwari Ma Bhagvati Chaitri Navratri 2019, there is going to be a nine days event of **Shrimad Devi Bhagavad Katha** in Valley Hindu Temple, Northridge. In the 22



October 5, 2020

Drs. Jasvant and Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Drs. Modi,

On behalf of the College of Humanities, I write to thank you for your generosity to the *Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies* fund. During these unprecedented times of pandemic and social justice movements, we are deeply grateful that you chose to support our students with your pledge contribution.

In these days of uncertainty during which institutions like CSUN have been challenged to create safer environments in which our students may study, I can assure you that the university administration, faculty and staff are deeply committed to the continued well-being of the students in our charge as evidenced with the transition to online learning in the majority of our subject matters, and in constantly keeping the CSUN family up to date with the most recent information regarding the pandemic and our response to it.

As the most diverse college at Cal State Northridge, we continually challenge our students to understand the wide scope of cultures, thought, perspectives, literatures and languages of humanity. More and more, the world is realizing that it is through the humanities that we understand the nuances of our daily lives better, and grow in, and learn from, the appreciation of the diversity of our world. In the last decade, the College of Humanities has taught more than 20,000 students, and we continue to grow. Your gift helps prepare our students to graduate

18111 Nordhoff Street • Northridge • CA 91330-8252 • phone: (818) 677-3301 • fax: (818) 677-4902



October 10, 2019

Dr. Jasvant Modi  
Dr. Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada-Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Drs. Modi,

Once again, thank you for your generosity in establishing the **Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies** in the Department of Religious Studies at California State University, Northridge. We are eternally grateful.

I have enclosed an original fully executed addendum to the **Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies** agreement. Please retain this for your files.

Once again, thank you for your tremendous support. As I have said many times, it is an honor and a pleasure working with you.



DIANNE F. HARRISON, PH.D.  
President

January 30, 2019

Dr. Jasant Modi  
Dr. Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Jasant and Meera:

It is my honor to thank you and your family for establishing the Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies within the Department of Religious Studies at California State University, Northridge.

As an institute of higher education, we strive to remain relevant and in touch with our diverse environment and community. We feel it is vital to promote the exploration of and interest in global cultures, religions and philosophies. Our mission is to provide our students with a well-rounded education, which will open countless doors for them as they pursue their dreams and work toward their goals in their chosen fields.

The Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies provides an exciting new opportunity for our students who are interested in learning about Jain teachings and philosophy. Educating students in the fundamental principles of Jainism will naturally lead to an increased awareness of the religion and of themselves.

Your generosity ensures that we can provide quality experiences and learning opportunities. By investing in today's students, you help us provide the resources they need to graduate ready to

Ms. Shruti J. Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Ms. Modi,

On behalf of the College of Humanities, I write to thank you personally for your generous contribution to the *Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies*. We are deeply grateful for your generosity.

Your support prepares our students to graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in our rapidly changing and internationally competitive world. As the most diverse college at Cal State Northridge, we continually challenge our students to understand the wide scope of cultures, thought, perspectives, literatures and languages of humanity. More and more, the world is realizing that it is through the humanities that we understand the nuances of our daily lives better, and grow in, and learn from, the appreciation of the diversity of our world.

Situated on a 356-acre setting in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, and serving more than 40,000 students each year, CSUN is one of the largest universities in the United States. CSUN ranks 16th in the country in awarding bachelor's degrees to underrepresented minority students, fifth nationally in awarding master's degrees to Hispanic students and enrolls the largest number of deaf and hard-of-hearing students of any mainstream university in the United States. CSUN's 171 academic programs and engaged centers enjoy international recognition for their excellence. CSUN currently partners with more than 100 institutions of higher education in 22 countries around the globe and attracts the second-largest international student population of any U.S. master's-level institution. CSUN is a welcoming university that champions accessibility, academic excellence and student success.

If you have not been to CSUN in a while, please feel free to contact Suren Seropian, Director of Development, College of Humanities at (818) 677-7135 or [suren.seropian@csun.edu](mailto:suren.seropian@csun.edu) and make arrangements for a visit and lunch.

# CSUN FOUNDATION

January 9, 2019

Ms. Shruti J. Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Shruti:

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff at California State University, Northridge, thank you for your recent gift to the Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies. We are honored to be the recipients of your generosity.

At CSUN, we aspire to provide our students with an environment that promotes diversity, academic excellence, creativity and exploration, and that offers unique opportunities to cultivate their passion within their chosen field of interest.

Today, CSUN continues to receive accolades for its numerous accomplishments in higher education. Whether through our dedicated faculty members who receive high honors (since 2001, more than two dozen faculty in business, the humanities, the arts and the social sciences have been honored as Fulbright Scholars for teaching and advanced research); our state-of-the-art institutes and centers (our LEED Platinum-certified Sustainability Center is the first of its kind in the 23-campus CSU system); or national recognition for our programs (we were ranked second in the nation by The Wall Street Journal for our diverse learning environment), CSUN is dedicated to providing the best for our students, the Los Angeles region and beyond.

As we continue to mentor and encourage our students, we know that much of what we do would not be possible without the support of alumni and friends like you. Your gift provides CSUN with the resources necessary to provide our students with what they need



**CSUN.**

September 10, 2018

Dr. Jasvant Modi  
Dr. Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Jasvant and Meera,

Thank you for making an impact on CSUN and its Students with your generous gift commitment to establish the Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies.

In addition to elevating student, faculty and campus success at CSUN, your gift also distinguishes you as a President's Associate-level donor. Through cumulative annual leadership gifts of \$1,000 and above, President's Associates provide vital operational and financial support that help make CSUN the economic engine, intellectual hub and cultural heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley.

In recognition of your outstanding philanthropy as a President's Associate-level donor, you will receive special communications and invitations to exclusive CSUN events, such as receptions at the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts and the annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon with CSUN President Dianne E. Harrison.



December 21, 2018

Dr. Jasvant Modi  
Dr. Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada-Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Drs. Modi,

Thank you for your generosity in establishing the **Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies** in the Department of Religious Studies at California State University, Northridge. We are all very pleased that you find the enclosed addendum an accurate reflection of our conversations on December 4, 2018, by telephone.

I have enclosed two copies of the addendum to the **Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies** agreement for your signatures. Please initial and sign both documents where indicated and return them in the envelope provided. Once all signatures are collected from the university, I will mail you an original for your records.

Once again, thank you for your tremendous support. As I have said many times, it is an honor and a pleasure working with you to make this most generous contribution a reality.



May 24, 2018

Dr. Jasvant Modi  
Dr. Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada-Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Drs. Modi,

Thank you for your generosity in establishing the **Bhagvan Ajitnath Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies** in the Department of Religious Studies at California State University, Northridge.

I have enclosed two copies of the final agreement for your signatures. Please initial and sign both documents where indicated and return them to me in the envelope provided. Once all signatures are collected from the university, I will mail you an original for your records.

We are all looking forward to having you back on campus for a celebratory lunch with President Dianne Harrison on Tuesday, June 5. I will follow up via email for the names and email addresses of the attendees, so that I will be able to send them the arrangements for parking and other details.

Once again, thank you for your tremendous support. It has been an honor and a pleasure working with you to make this most generous contribution.