

The Second International Conference on Science and Jain Philosophy is being organized by Florida International University's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs (FIU) and Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF) from March 19-22, 2021. It is a historic milestone in the decade-long association between FIU and JERF, through the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies.

The importance of the theme of the conference, “**Consciousness in Modern Science and Jain Philosophy**” is beyond the words. Consciousness has become a topic of serious scientific research in recent times. Many concepts and phenomena of the universe cannot be explained without accepting consciousness. Yet, “what consciousness is”, is a mystery to the world of science. Eastern philosophies, especially Jainism, have been discussing the concept of consciousness since millennia. In fact, at the very core of Jainism lie the concepts of soul (*ātma*) and consciousness (*cetanā*). According to it, consciousness is the defining characteristic of the soul and both cannot exist without other.

I am delighted that ICSJP is an outstanding initiative not only bringing science and spirituality together, but it is an initiative which is bringing two cultures: eastern and western together. This is a great step towards dissolving cultural and ethnic conflicts. Such conferences are the need of the hour for positive and inclusive dialogues for saving the planet and making the world better to live in with peace and prosperity. The world shall witness the unity of Jain with the overwhelming participation of the spiritual leaders of all Jain traditions, renowned scientists, academicians, thinkers and scholars of eastern and western religion and philosophy. I am positive that the knowledge exchange shall give a much-needed boost to the academic and scientific research of the ancient concept of consciousness vis a vis current scientific knowledge. Our aim is to foster a deeper understanding of Jainism using scientific methods to widen its acceptability and share the wonders hidden in this rich philosophy, to lead the creation of a wise, compassionate and harmonious global society.

My best wishes to the entire team of ICSJP 2021 for its hard work and dedicated efforts! May this conference be a great success!

Warm regards,



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