

TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

on

DATING OF MAHAVIRA NIRVANA

July 9-10, 2022
(Saturday-Sunday)

International School for Jain Studies 'ISJS'
(A Division of Amar Prerana Trust, Pune)

and

JAINA-ALC International Center of Jainism and Science

Venue

NAVALVEERAYATAN

Tiwai Hill, Chaskman, Wada Road, Khed
Pune, Maharashtra-410513 (India)

PREAMBLE

Seventh to sixth century BCE was the period of changing religious and people's revolutions. In Indian context, this period witnessed the advent of two great personalities: Mahāvīra and Buddha, whose teachings and conduct had a far-reaching impact not only in India but in whole world. It is an irony that the issue of finalization of Mahāvīra *nirvāṇa* date stays alive in academic research.

There are about fifteen different theories regarding this. After a close scrutiny of these theories, we find that the year of Mahavira nirvana in many history books and papers ranges from 467 BC, 477 BC, 484 BC, 490 BC, 498 BC, 545 BC and so on. The whole problem was made more complicated and controversial by connecting it with Buddha's nirvana, the date of which has not yet been fully and authoritatively ascertained. Scholars are therefore not unanimous about the date of Mahavira nirvana as they still hold different views. Scholars like Kailash Chand Jain, Jyoti Prasad Jain, and Muni Nagraj have authored scholarly books on the subject to disperse this controversy.

It is well-known from the different sources that Mahavira flourished in the age of Shrenika/Bimbisara and Kunika/Ajatashatru of Magadha, Prashenjita of Kosala, Udayana of Vatsa, Pradyot of Avanti. Based on the ancient Jain scriptures and traditions, it is believed that his nirvana took place in 527 BC and lived in the days of Mankhali Goshala and Buddha. Buddha was his junior contemporary and died afterwards. In determining the date of Mahavira *nirvana*, a close scrutiny of these facts is required.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SEMINAR

JAINA-ALC International Center of Jainism and Science is organizing this symposium to address the issue of Mahavira nirvana similar to, in 1988, a German scholar, Prof. Heinz Bechert, organized an international symposium where about 100 scholars from 15 countries presented their extensive research on the nirvana year of Buddha.

In this symposium we have invited brilliant scholars who have an outstanding understanding of both Indian history and Jain history with this hope that symposium will

resolve the present discrepancies that exist in history books regarding the year of Mahavira *nirvana*.

On each day we will have an open forum near the end of the program for group discussion. We will value your comments and suggestions on both days.

SUB-THEME OF THE SEMINAR

Year of ascension of throne of Chandragupta Maurya and its relation to nirvana year of Mahavira.

- Year of *nirvana* of Bhadrabahu and Sambhutivijaya and its relation to *nirvana* of Mahavira
- Year in which king Bimbisara (Shrenika), Ajatashatru, Samprati and Ashoka ruled and its relation to *nirvana* of Mahavira
- There are differences in genealogy of Pattavali between Shvetambara and Digambara traditions. Why? Can that be resolved? How does this affect the dating of Mahavira *nirvana*?
- Kalpasutra and its relevance to the dating of Mahavira *nirvana*.
- Other topics related to the theme.