

President speech at AGM on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.

Jai Jinendra and Jaishrikrishna

Dear Members ,

A warm and sincere welcome to you all. The Committee and I are looking forward to 'chairing and coordinating' a constructive AGM which I hope will include active participation from all members who are present. We would like to conduct the AGM in an orderly and professional manner and to that extent I would be grateful for your co-operation and respect for those 'chairing' the meeting. In addition we will endeavor to answer all questions with clarity and full transparency. We hope you will provide us with both positive input and positive criticism. Our ultimate aim is to work together and give the best service service to the community.

Friends, I have thoroughly enjoyed my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of presidency. The past year has been interesting with a lot of co-operation from members..

My original stated objective was to increase the delegation of responsibility within the executive committee. This I believe has been achieved and as a result I am now able to spend more time interacting with community members and raising the profile of our association with other organisations and across the wider community. It is our belief that the community at large appears to be happy with all the functions, events and activities that have been organized throughout the year.

My annual report will focus on three main areas:

1. Appreciation of members for services provided.
2. Achievements of 2010;
- 3 Plans for 2011

I would like to begin by thanking the following individuals for the service they have provided to the organization:

**Reshma Mehta** – for the excellent job as editor of our news letter Darpan

**Jayesh Doshi** – for his diligent work as coordinator for jivdaya fund allocation

**Kanakbhai Juthani & Rashmi Patel** - trustees of the association for the past 5 years. They will retire this year and we look forward to their continued participation and advice in the future.

**Bharti Gandhi** - for her dedicated services towards the refurbishment of the main hall.

**David Holden** - an all rounder who has advised on health & safety and building matters.

**Narendra Mehta** - for services in property maintenance and electrical work.

**Kishore Mehta** - for general services in property maintenance.

**Baburai Shah** – for help on the Incorporation of the Association.

**Radha Malkan, Kiran Bhuva** – for their excellent work during the Janmashtami Celebration.

**Dhiru Galani** - an expert all rounder in many fields and project leader for the conversion of the sports hall.

**Jayant Doshi** – for all of his help as coordinator for pritimhojan

**Kamlesh Mehta** - for his services as co-ordinator for Dairo-Sangeet Sandhya.

**Bharat Varia** - for services during paryushan and other functions.

**Rita Shah---** for services during Paryushan and other functions.

**Mamta Tolia**—for her Public Relation services.

**Jayantibhai Ghelani-** for his valuable funeral services.

**Usha Shah** and the Bhagini committee members

**Dilip Mithani** and the NBC committee members

**Nalinbhai Udani** and the Yuva vadil committee members

**Dilip Mehta** and the Golf committee members.

These 4 affiliates are an integral part of our association and I congratulate them for running successful and interesting activities throughout the course of the year. All of them are very understanding and we have enjoyed working with them.

**Roopal Mehta and the NYA team** - for their tremendous enthusiasm and support In many of our functions. We have promised our full support to them in all their activities.

I would like to thank the many volunteers for their hard work and cooperation in ensuring the functions have been successful. We are proud of our volunteers. Also, my thanks and gratitude goes out to all of you, the members, for your continued encouragement and support. Without you all, we wan't have the enjoyment of all our activities.

I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Mehool Sangrajka for being honoured for HIND RATTAN for his outstanding work as the Director of Education of the Institute of Jainology.

**My personal appreciation and thanks to my Executive Committee members:**

**Paresh Mehta**, Vice President – a ‘guru’ for rules and regulations. He was the project leader for the refurbishment of the main hall and has brought a level of professionalism to the committee that has not been seen before.

**Dipak Shah**, Ag. General Secretary -very hard working and dedicated. Excellent at paper work Has a great sense of humour.. He has a good grasp of the constitution.

**Ramesh Shah**, Treasurer - Navnat Centre is his 2<sup>nd</sup> home! Extremely dedicated and loves to attend and finish the financial work on a daily basis. He is expert in claiming gift aid money. He worked hard to get the license for Civil marriage registration.

**Nitin Parekh**, Membership Secretary - he is quite. cool and listens to all. He is well experienced and has a good understanding of accounts, the constitution, incorporation.

**Bharat Parekh**, Hall Secretary - very hard working, loves the hall rental work and is always soft and polite with the general public.

**Bhogilal Sanghvi**, Asst. Treasurer - he has worked well and has helped at various functions.

**Sakuntala Sheth**, Com. Member - she has worked perfectly as Kitchen Coordinator and she loves to satisfy all within the catering facilities. A big thank you to her team of helpers. Our quality of food is well appreciated.

**Nemish Mehta**, Com. Member - very diligent member of the team who keeps us all well informed and up to date with community news. He is our Web Master.

**Mahendra Kothary**, Com. Member - always ready to take on any duty given to him. Likes to give his opinion on any matter within seconds.

**Roopal Punater**, Com. Member – a hard working member of the team who has helped at various functions.

**Kirit Batavia**, Com. Member - excellent input, considering this was his 1<sup>st</sup> year in the committee. As Co-ordinator of Navratri, he performed his duty with great dedication.

**Sangeeta Bavishia**, Com. Member - always ready to take on any duty. Good finance control and administration during paryushan and pritibhojan. It is her 1<sup>st</sup> year in the committee.

**Hasmita Doshi**, Com. Member - excellent input considering her 1<sup>st</sup> year as committee member, she was a joint co-ordinator for Navratri. Loves talking but also delivers the assignment given.

Board of Trustees - Vipin Mithani, Kanak Juthani, Rashmi Patel, Manharbhai Mehta, and Jayesh Kothari. Thank you all for your support and guidance during the year.

We appreciate the services of Paresh Gandhi, our Hon. Solicitor. He has recently migrated to Australia. NVA presented him with a nice memento as a token of appreciation for his services to the community. We wish him well.

Finally, a very big thank you to everyone's other halves for being so understanding and supportive in allowing us to devote precious family time to serve the needs of our association and community.

## **Public Relations**

Our Association receives various invitations from the office of the Indian High Commission, and we are keen for community representatives to attend these events. They give us the chance to meet members of other organizations and raise our profile significantly.

The Institute of Jainology recently organized a series of functions and lectures at the V & A museum and British Library to which we were always invited. This year we were also invited to the opening of the JAINpedia exhibition and had the privilege of meeting HRH Prince Charles. We hope to bring to our centre the Jainpedia traveling exhibition in the near future.

We participated with JAINS UK, to celebrate the theme of the colours of Jainism. This was arranged with an aim to bring Jain associations together.

Recently we organised an exploratory meeting with various Jain organizations, including the Oshwal Association, to discuss Jain representation at government level in various fields and other common issues.

We are affiliated to the National Council of Gujarati Association and we attend their meetings and functions.

Some useful contacts have been established with Hillingdon Borough, and have started attending their various community meetings. We provided volunteers to the Hayes borough to help people complete the Census forms.

Contacts with Harrow, Brent and Hillingdon councilors is reasonably good and this has enabled us to apply for various grants.

In Sept. 2010 we participated in the Sewa day. This year Sewa Day is going to be an international event and we hope to do a good project in UK.

## **Achievements**

I am pleased that we have been able to deliver on the items as promised in my report last years. We have been able to complete:

- a. The Refurbishment of the Main Hall.
- b. Improvements to the roof.
- c. Provision of a container storage facility.
- d. The installation of a Mezzanine floor in the sports room.

The computer and library facility will be ready within the next 3 months and we hope to start the Think Tank Committee in due course.

We have now got a Wedding Registry License which will make our centre even more attractive for hosting wedding events.

### **Plan for 2011**

The plan for 2011 includes:

- a. the installation of CCTV cameras
- b. the installation of sound limit equipment
- c. conducting a feasibility study for improvements to the car park
- d. the incorporation of the association
- e. conducting a feasibility study for a new kitchen facility

Our longer term plan, to be discussed with the Think Tank Committee, includes:

- a. the building of a mandir / derasar
- b. the creation of a children's play area
- c. the development of outdoor sports facilities
- d. total improvement of the car park
- e. the erection of a permanent marquee structure

### **General:**

Our balance sheet is healthy, our credibility with other associations is good and we remain the 'talk of the town'.

We must never forget our fundamental aims, Religion, Education, Culture and Social Harmony - we must continue to develop and build around these aims. We are a united community with a strong bonding and a sense of belonging amongst all of us.

Thank you for listening.

Bhupendra shah.