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R CHENRAJ JAIN

CHANCELLOR, MATS UNIVERSITY

CHAIRMAN, JAIN GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

Chenraj Jain – a man of infinite vision and finite realizations.

A figure of calm eloquence, swathed in the immaculate whiteness of a kurta, strolls down college corridors assimilating the visions hitherto realized and those still in the offing. Sri R Chenraj Jain can often be found relishing the significance of his handiwork, the Jain Group of Institutions, and absorbing the magnificence it has come to symbolize.

Best described as a man of vision, he has, for 14 long years, witnessed the laying of every brick, in the emergence of JGI, with concern & conviction. But it is the many hues of personality that make up a man and Sri Chenraj is no different. Born on July 7, 1961 his multi faceted personality encompasses the professionalism of his working life, the affection for his family and friends and the idealism of principle and intuition.

Himself an embodiment of the Jain principles of truth, peace and love, Sri Chenraj's presence instills awe and admiration among his students. His aura of unassuming humility is not unlike that of a spiritual guru or social worker.

"If you have anything really valuable to contribute to the world it will come through the expression of your own personality, that single spark of divinity that sets you off and makes you different from every other living creature."

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Chenraj Jain – a Family Man.

Sri R Chenraj Jain derives strength of commitment towards the cause of education from his family, whom he considers to be the core of his being, besides his personal ideals. He believes that only the selfless support of a loving family can sustain a man's relentless pursuit of his goals.

Sri Chenraj holds his wife Smt. Manjula Devi in high esteem and says that his children Jyothi, Sheetal and Vishal are constant reminders for him to make every child equally fortunate. Part of his vision stems from the fact that he sees a likeness of his children in the eyes of every child he comes across.

A prominent influence on the mindset of Sri Chenraj has been his father, Sri P Roychand. Sri Roychand, a person who shuns limelight, is intensely involved in a plethora of social welfare activities, an outstanding example of which is the Goshala. A financier by profession, he was a hockey champion in his heydays with a distinguished academic track record upto the 12th standard. In spite of being a non-graduate he was selected by the Reserve Bank of India, an achievement in its own right.

Sri Chenraj's sister Smt. Lalitha is happily married and blessed with three children. His brother, Sri Nirmal Kumar is married to Smt Pushpa and blessed with four children.

Sri Chenraj's strong family values have made him a persistent advocate for the cause of integrating the same into educational methodology. As a son, a brother, a husband and a father, he staunchly believes in practicing what he preaches.

"The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home."

Chenraj Jain – the Entrepreneur

Sri R Chenraj Jain's extensive inter-personal, communication and management skills are not an overnight miracle. They are a product of his years of business experience. Having entered the textile business at the tender age of 13 through *Pragati* he started off as a dealer for Reliance Industries specializing in 'Cut Lengths'. He then went on to distinguish himself as the no. 1 dealer of the Reliance banner from 1978 – 1990. He also had the opportunity of working with Sri. Dhirubhai Ambani of Reliance Industries.

Sri Chenraj established a wide business network with more than 8000 customers throughout South India. His unique approach of personally meeting his customers led him to travel extensively in these states. In 1982 he started 800 retail outlets with an innovative concept in display that required lesser investment, now popular as 'Bits' showrooms. Today, more than 30,000 shops exist under the same concept. In 1992, he promoted Indsyl Electrochemicals at Palghat, Kerala with a group of 10 like-minded people and an investment of Rs. 10 crores. This industry provides silica raw material, which is useful in the preparation of silicon. In 1994, he promoted 'Cona Chemicals' with a group of 5 friends in alliance with GE Electricals. It competes with Philips and other MNCs in supplying the phosphor powder used in the manufacture of tube lights.

As a promoter and builder, Sri Chenraj has completed 4 projects till date and is currently undertaking a group housing project of 400 houses for BHEL, financed by Canfin Homes. It is a Rs. 50 crore project to be completed within two years. He is also a sleeping partner in

Bangalore's leading jewellery showroom 'Navrathan Jewellers', which has an annual turnover of Rs. 150 crores.

His brother successfully manages '*Pushpa Syndicate*' and '*Pragati*' on Avenue Road, Bangalore, which has wholesale dealership in textiles.

Sri Chenraj, as a businessman, is distinctive from the teeming millions who are barely able to divert their attentions towards the superior pursuits of life. His involvement is restricted to providing initiative and supervision, speaking volumes about his extraordinary managerial prowess and dedication to education. The very fact that he remains unfazed by the colour of filthy lucre is a virtue worthy of praise.

"Business demands faith, compels earnestness, requires courage, instructs ruthlessly, penalizes for mistakes and forms the essence of existence. So does life."

Chenraj Jain – the Educationist

In his professional capacity, Sri R Chenraj Jain wouldn't give an inkling of the iconic image he projects in the world of education. And yet this unpretentious figure is responsible for revamping and modernizing education in its entirety.

Sri Chenraj laid the foundation of an illustrious institution in the form of *Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College* at V.V. Puram with the support of the Jain community in 1990. And he has never looked back since then, having served as its Chairman and seen it grow from strength to strength to its present number of 6000 students. With the enthusiasm and dedication of a sculptor creating a masterpiece, his single-handed perseverance has culminated in an institution of unparalleled stature in terms of infrastructure and personnel.

Besides initiating courses in Science, Commerce and Business Management, Sri Chenraj made SBMJC the first college ever to have a full-fledged Human Resource and Public Relations Department. Under his able leadership, the college provides holistic education by

supplementing university curriculum with regular sessions on Personality Development, Time Management, Stress Management, Memory Techniques, Transactional Analysis, Goal Setting, Communication & Presentation Skills among others; many of which are conducted by the Chairman himself.

Sri Chenraj introduced periodic training and orientation programmes for the faculty, to upgrade their capabilities, multiply their skills and renew their passion for teaching. By reviving the N.C.C., N.S.S. and Rotaract activities of the college, he furthered his resolution to channel the energy of the youth into productive zones.

Sri Chenraj's illuminating discourses have been the guiding light for innumerable individuals looking for assistance, in everything from education & careers to business. Endowed with the gift of speech and having mastered the English language in a remarkably short span of 1 year, his oratory skills, charismatic presence & magnetic persona have made him a much sought after counsellor and adviser.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Chenraj Jain – the Leader

Eminence bears its own aura and it reflects in the countenances born by the principal. Sri R Chenraj Jain's varied faculties have not escaped the attention of his peers. And given his enduring willingness to serve, Sri Chenraj has held office in several prominent capacities.

He has served as a member of the State Level Apex Body for Quality Assurance & NAAC Accreditation, Collegiate Education, Government of Karnataka and as Vice President, Federation of Jain Educational Institutes (FJEI)

“The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision.”

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Chenraj Jain - the Philanthropist

On one of those rare occasions, when Sri R Chenraj Jain is not being swarmed by a multitude of people, he sits in silence savouring the deserted stillness of his office. And even as he looks out of the window and watches the last few students fade into the distance, he feels inadequately restless.

Sri Chenraj is a person whose life centres on the attainment of a purpose. And with the kind of responsibility he has taken upon himself, every accomplishment, no matter how great, continually points towards even greater realizations. So, apparently, for him, every moment of silent contemplation is one of tacit restlessness.

One such accomplishment of Sri Chenraj is the Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain Super Speciality Hospital at Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore that underlines his commitment to the upliftment of the poor and needy. He has also organised a number of programmes for the rural populace of Kanakapura Taluk, Bangalore District (Rural), besides the Cataract Free Kanakapura Project - Eye camps held every week. Eye testing and cataract operations are performed

free of cost. Since its inception in January 2002, the Cataract Free Kanakapura Project has been successful in conducting 46 camps where more than 7200 patients have been screened in the year 2002 alone and over 1280 patients have regained vision.

Blood donation camps, health checkups, medical facilities and preventive care awareness in addition to the free distribution of clothes to a large number of school children, every year, have been some of Sri Jain's attempts for a better world, the world of his visions and dreams.

"The work a humble and good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green."

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Chenraj Jain - the Mentor and Guide

Most who attempted to alter the face of humanity, in some measure or the other, did so in the light of tremendous upheavals and turmoil. But the transformations of biblical proportions, etched in the fabric of time, have occurred with the subtlety of celestial events. Like the profound mechanisms of space and time, they pass over us as an unseen gust of wind, leaving behind a world beyond our comprehension.

Such has been the impact of one solitary individual, predominantly in the sphere of education. Sri R Chenraj Jain, as Chairman of the *Jain Group of Institutions*, has incessantly envisioned revolutionary and exemplary educational projects. Each of the following projects is a fabrication of his intellect and foresight:

Jain International Residential School – A world-class institution imparting quality education on the foundations of our pristine cultural heritage & value systems. With a huge campus of 150 acres at Jakkasandra, 40 Km from Bangalore on the Kanakapura road, it involved an initial outlay of Rs. 75 crores. Two phases of the project at Rs. 60 crores have already been completed.

Jain Vidyaniketan – A free school that imparts education to the rural population of Kanakapura Taluk and provides all students with free uniforms, lunch, books and stationery. Students are picked up from their residences and dropped back absolutely free of cost. Presently, the school has 1800 students from over 108 villages, which is shortly expected to touch 4000. The estimated budget of the project is Rs. 15 crores, of which Rs. 8 crores has already been invested.

Mahaveer Academy of Technology and Sciences – A path breaking initiative of the Jain Group, it offers Masters Programmes in International Business and Information Technology to students keen on acquiring globally relevant education and placement opportunities. It involves investments to the tune of Rs. 5 crores.

International Academy for Creative Teaching – Aimed at bringing about a revolution in teaching by substituting the present chalk and talk methods with the introduction of multimedia and visual aids. The intention is to replace teacher centred learning with student centred learning where teachers are only facilitators and not the ultimate source of knowledge. Teachers at all academic levels and standards shall be made proficient in this regard. The estimated outlay of this project is Rs. 10 crores.

Jain Institute of Management Studies – Purports to bridge the gap between theory oriented University programmes and ability specific industry requirements for aspiring management graduates.

Jain Institute of Vocational and Advanced Studies – An institute exclusively set up to provide practical and job oriented training to young people at all levels including engineers, diploma holders, graduates, matriculates & even school dropouts. Investments amount to – Rs. 3 crores.

Accredited Coaching Centre for C.A – A school providing excellent coaching for students wanting to take up Chartered Accountancy as a profession. The best of its kind in Bangalore, it has several successful candidates to its credit.

Jain School of Interior Design – Offers programmes in Interior Designing that are skill based in structure but career-oriented in approach, for students inclined towards this profession.

Centre for Management Studies – Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College, Department of Management, has pioneered a new concept in business education that is being implemented for the first time in India. The concept is called the 'Business Education Integrated Model' and unites the best in classroom experience with actual on-the-field exposure to the corporate world.

Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain Evening College – Offers courses in PUC, B.Com. & PG Diplomas in Business Administration, Marketing and Personnel Management.

Mahaveer Institute of Information Technology – A unique establishment for computer training and related fields of expertise, it emphasizes on software development. At a total investment of Rs. 3 crores it offers state of the art electronics and hardware to students.

Jain Veterinary Hospital – A medical centre for cattle, this hospital is built by the Jain Group and managed by the Animal Husbandry Department of the Govt. of Karnataka. It caters to the welfare of the cattle of nearly 100 villages in Kanakapura Taluk.

Jain Charitable Hospital – Proposing to provide medical help at the doorsteps of the poor and needy of its locality, this project is soon to be launched in the Kanakapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Human Networking Academy – This project provides life-enriching programmes that re-establish the importance of human values based in ancient Indian tradition. It strengthens the mind and enables us to face life with a wholesome personality. Almost 150 eminent intellectuals are involved in this project. All the students, parents and teachers of the Jain Group of Institutions, as well as Bangalore colleges benefit from its workshops lasting 3 days.

This concept is expected to spread throughout the nation to all segments of society, for which research has already commenced. A Centre for Culture and Human Values will be launched with the aim of training students to become useful citizens in the process of nation building. The course is designed at three levels of achievement and individual progress.

“The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.”

Abraham Lincoln

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Chenraj Jain – the Achiever

Some simply dream, others dream to escape reality and the rest dream to make dreams come true. But only those who realize their dreams are the ones who themselves become the stuff that dreams are made of. And even greater are those who dream, not for themselves, but for the good of others.

Greatness of this stature is not ignored but honoured. It is blessed with the prayers of a thousand sages and with the gifts of a thousand years. Mere mortals like us are limited to bestowing awards.

Sri R Chenraj Jain has to his credit several such distinctions, some of which are:

- Rotary Award for Vocational Service
- Indian Medical Association Award for Leading Personalities – Dr. B C Roy Award
- SEVAK Award for Service to Humanity
- Rajasthan Youth Association Award for Service in Education Sector.
- Jaycees Award – Outstanding Young Indian
- Seva Ratna Award awarded by Centurion Trust, Chennai

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”

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Chenraj Jain – the Troubadour

Sri R Chenraj Jain, like most public figures, is widely travelled both in India and abroad. He has visited the Sinclair Community College, Ohio and Eastern Iowa Community College, Iowa, *United States of America*, NMIT, Melbourne, *Australia*, and a host of other Universities in Singapore and Malaysia.

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

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Chenraj Jain – the Orator

A definitive attribute of great leaders has been the ability to master the spoken word. The ability to strike a chord in the hearts of listeners and shake their very beings with overwhelming emotion and sentiment is what wins over hearts and minds.

Sri R Chenraj Jain's lectures at many social organisations & colleges have stimulated and motivated students to perform better. A much sought after speaker, he has lectured in many public sector & private companies on various aspects of HRD.

“We are deeply affected by the words we hear, for there is something in the voice, the look, the carriage, and even the gesture of the speaker, that makes a deep impression upon the mind.”

Chenraj Jain – the Visionary

Imagine a solitary ray of light in the extremity of your vision. Picture this faint glow on the distant horizon, barely visible across endless expanses, as a seemingly insignificant entity defying the enormity of the enclosing darkness. But this glow silently smolders into the brilliance of dawn, heralding the decisive emergence of the sun.

Sri R Chenraj Jain can well reflect on a journey of identical odds and indomitable will. His vision took form in 1990 in the form of JGI and SBMJC, which are now at the pinnacle of success. The vision has grown, with greater goals and greater aspirations.

He now looks to establish a Corporate University with a deemed status by 2005. Sri Chenraj has a crystal clear concept of an 'Educational Supermarket', with more than 300 courses right from pre nursery to specialized postgraduate levels. The emphasis will be on Biotechnology, Agriculture and Rural Development. The University will have schools of Medical Sciences and Engineering apart from centres for training and development,

consultancy and research. The school of vocational studies will provide skilled training to the under privileged, enabling them to obtain gainful employment.

The envisaged investment will be to the tune of Rs. 300 crores in the next 5 years, of which Rs. 90 crores has already been invested. The vision of providing quality education to rural masses will fructify with the establishment of 12 free rural schools in the next 5 years. The same period will also see the establishment of 4 residential schools all over the country.

The vision is to shape the alumni of all institutions under the JGI banner into a cohesive body with a common goal. To contribute 2% of the country's GDP and make real a magnificent India.

Sri R Chenraj Jain perceived a vision and gave it to us. A vision that grew in our being and became our pledge, our purpose, our existence.

"The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on."