

# Samvatsari parva

September 14, 2021

**In news**– The Prime Minister has greeted the people on the occasion of Samvatsari.

## About Samvatsari parva-

- It is the last day of the Paryushan Parv festival of the **Shwetambar sect of the Jain community**.
- It falls on Shukla Panchami each year in the **Jain calendar month of Bhadrapada**, somewhere between the middle of August and September in the Gregorian calendar.
- A yearly, elaborate penitential retreat called "*samvatsari pratikramana*" is performed on this day.
- After the *pratikramana*, Jains seek forgiveness from all the creatures of the world, including friends and relatives by uttering the phrase – *Micchami Dukkadam* or its variants like "Khamau Sa", "Uttam Kshama" or "Khamat Khamna".
- While **Samvatsari and kshamavani are typically associated with Shwetambar sect and Digambara** respectively, there is no major difference between the two days and both are observed as Forgiveness Days.
- As a result, while Samvatsari is observed on Shukla Panchami of Bhadrapada month by the Shwetambaras, the Digambaras celebrate it on the first day of *Ashvin Krishna* month of the lunar-based Jain calendar.

## About Paryushan parva-

- It is the most important annual holy event for Jains and is usually celebrated in August or September.
- During this festival, Jains increase their level of spiritual intensity often using fasting and prayer/meditation to help.
- The five main vows are emphasized during this time.

- Normally, *Digambaras* refer to it as *Das Lakshana Dharma* while *Śvētāmbaras* refer to it as *Paryushana* (“abiding” or “coming together”).
- The duration of *Paryushana* is for 8 days for *Śvētāmbara* Jains and 10 days for Jains belonging to the *Digambara* sect.
- The festival ends with the celebration of *Samvatsari* or *Kshamavani* (forgiveness day).
- The *Digambaras* celebrate *Ananta-chaturdashi* on the *chaturdashi*, special worship is done on this day.
- During the 8-day festival, the *Kalpa Sutra* is recited in the *Shwetmbara* sect, that includes a recitation of the section on birth of Lord Mahavira on the fifth day.
- In the *Digambara* sect the *Tattvartha-sutra* of *Umaswati* is recited.

### **Das-Dharma-**

Das-Dharma (ten righteous virtues) are mentioned in the **Jain text, Tattvartha Sutra**. These are:

1. Uttam Kshama (forbearance).
2. Uttam Mardava (supreme modesty).
3. Uttam Aarjava (straightforwardness).
4. Uttam Shoch (purity).
5. Uttam Satya (truth).
6. Uttam Sanyam (supreme restraint).
7. Uttam Tap (austerity).
8. Uttam Tyaga (renunciation).
9. Uttam Aakinchanya (non-attachment).
10. Uttam Brahmcharya (supreme celibacy).

In the full form, it is a 10-day *vrata* that comes every year. It may be undertaken during *Shukla Panchami* to *Chaturdashi* of *Bhadrapada*, *Magh* or *Chaitra* months.