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## From The Editor in Chief

Jai Jinendra !

Current issue of Jain Digest, offers information on Jain Diaspora outside of India and North America, in the limited time we were able to spend on the subject. After reaching out to the Jains, wherever we were able to reach, we started receiving information in bits and pieces. Slowly with these bits and pieces, plus interviewing individuals from the local centers and doing research on the net we are able to create write ups. You will notice that we have detailed information on some and not on all them. This does not in any way suggest that some centers are of any lesser importance – it is just this what we were able to gather.

Migration to Africa, Middle East, Burma began in the early 19th century. In UK and Belgium major migration took place in the middle of the 20th century and to South East Asia in late 20th century. Migration to Australia began in 21st century. At present, there are more than 100,000 Jains who live in USA and Canada. There are 25 to 30,000 Jains in Europe, 10,000 in Middle East, 9 to 10,000 in South East Asia, 4 to 5000 in Africa and 3 to 4000 in Australia.

Asian migration to modern day Kenya began with the construction of the Uganda railway around 1896 when some 32,000 laborers were recruited from British India to build railway lines. Once the railway was completed, many of these laborers voluntarily settled in East Africa and brought families from India. The early Asian settlers were predominately from Gujarat and Punjab. The railway opened the interior to trade and many soon began migrating away from the coastal cities. After the Second World War, Asians were found in all occupations, in business, the police force, bureaucracy, and many other professions. Their commercial skills contributed to the economic development and prosperity of Kenya and the rest of Africa. From there some Indians migrated to the United Kingdom, United States and Canada.

Our heart-felt Michhami-Dukkadam if we have missed or misrepresented any information, while we tried our best to present the information to the best of our ability. Please keep sending your feedback. Please write to jaindigest@jaina.org.

With Warm Regards
Lata Champsee, Editor


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