Preface

The Jain concept of non-violence is a way of life. It shows how it can be useful in dealing with problems that are facing today’s contemporary society. Non-violence can provide a new vision to the present day world, which can lead people to live a peaceful and harmonious life. At present, humanity is passing through turmoil and facing crisis, which is manifold and multi-dimensional. This crisis is mostly there because of the wrong approach of human beings towards nature. There are value erosion, moral degeneration in man. So most of the problems which man is facing today is due to his anthropocentric approach to the nature.

The present research makes an attempt to bring in environmental awareness in order to re-establish the broken link between modern man and nature, with the Jain concept of non-violence. The aim and objectives of this research is to showcase the rich ancient Jain tradition of taking care of the environment. An effort is made to understand the environmental awareness through the application part of non-violence. It throws light upon the protection of flora and fauna, and fundamental principles of ecology, which is based on Jain concept of non-violence.

The need of re-inculcated environmental ethics with the Jain concept of non-violence in our lives and thoughts can bring environmental awareness. A holistic vision of human development as a combination of environmental ethics and the Jain concept of non-violence together can bring social equity, spiritual and economic growth of man.

The moral and spiritual order of the Jain concept of non-violence can control human greed, which is the need of today's life. The global
ecological crisis today demands a spiritual relationship with nature. Man cannot afford the selfish way of living through the destruction of environment and ecology. So an environmental crisis which is made by man must be treated as an ethical dilemma which can be an answer for man’s responsibility towards environment. This needs an explanation in environmental ethics, its connection with the Jain concept of non-violence and sustainable development.

The Jain concept of non-violence responds to the challenges of the 21st century environmental crisis made by man. It gives solutions to this crisis with the Jain’s concept of non-violence. A change in man’s attitude toward nature will be possible through a proper understanding of the Jain concept of non-violence. It will develop an attitude or sense of awareness towards nature.