

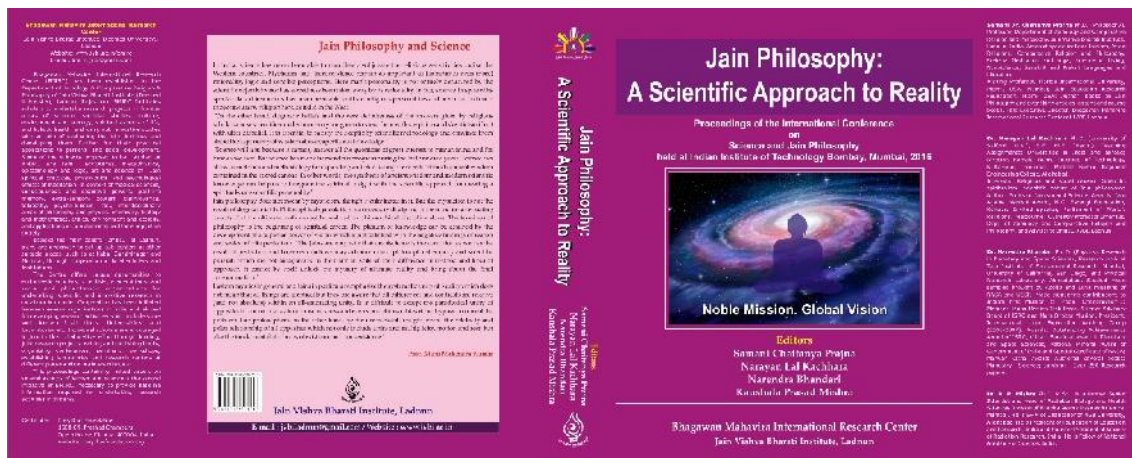
**National Symposium**  
**on**  
**Science and Spirituality: Future Prospects**

The National Symposium on Spirituality & Science: Future Prospects was organized by International Ahinsa Research and Training Institute of Spiritual Technology (I-ARTIST) in collaboration with World Jain Confederation & B.M.I.R.C, Jain Vishva Bharati Institute (Deemed University), Ladnun on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai to celebrate Bhagawan Mahavira's 2587<sup>th</sup> *Diksha Kalyanaka*.



The event was held under the Spiritual Guidance of Agama Manishi Prof. Munishri Mahendra Kumarji, obedient adherent of H.H. Acharya Mahashraman ji. The Guest of honour was honourable Justice Tater and the Chief Guest was Shri Arunkumar Mehta of B. Arunkumar & Co. and Rosy Blue Foundation.

The programme started at 10 am with recitation of Navkar Mahamantra by Prof. Munishri Mahendra Kumarji followed by Mangalacharan by Shri Piyush ji Nahata. The Convenor's Speech was given by Dr. Muni Abhijit Kumar who explained the events leading up to the Symposium as a part of his speech. The Welcome Speech was given by Dr. Narendra Bhandari. He said that human science had been defined thousands of years ago in ancient spiritual lore, but we have started to accept them only now. He also spoke about the International Conference on Science and Jain Philosophy, 2016 which was held at IIT Bombay. He introduced the Proceedings of the Conference titled "*Jain Philosophy: A Scientific Approach to Reality*" which has been published by JVBI (Deemed University), Ladnun, Rajasthan with the same title. He also gave an insight to the various research activities which had happened after the 2016 Conference and the prospects and vision for the future.



Dr. Pratap Sanchetee, a renowned neurologist, introduced I-ARTIST. He gave insight into the vision and need of I-ARTIST and its plans for the next 3 years. He explained the type of activities that will be undertaken at this research institute and also the plans for infrastructure, etc. He then introduced the first research project of I-ARTIST: "*Scientific Research including Neurological, Bio-chemical & Physiological Effects of Spiritual Technology on Prevention & Cure of Depression*" and explained how relevant and important this project is

given that 1 in 3 women suffer from depression and the increasing rate of suicides among students. This project was released by Justice K.K. Tater, who also addressed the audience and said that religious teachings are accepted by society only when it is proved scientifically.



Dr. Samani Chaitanya Prajna, in her address, spoke about the research and other activities undertaken by Bhagawan Mahavira Research Centre in J.V.B.I., Ladnun, Rajasthan in the last 3 years and its vision for the future. Acharya Nandighoshsuriji spoke about the various perspectives of science and spirituality. He also asserted the fact that it is very important to conduct scientific research on the practical aspects of spirituality. Shri Lahidi Guruji made an impactful speech on the need to use science and spirituality together for holistic development. There was also a talk by Dr. Roshani Sanghani, a renowned endocrinologist and diabetologist, who believes and prescribes fasting and making healthy lifestyle as found in the ancient scriptures as a means to treat and prevent diabetes. She emphasized on how important it is to

lead healthy lifestyles as opposed to the stressful, unhealthy lifestyles lived by most people today as a means of staying healthy.

Chief Guest Shri Arunkumar Mehta used an excellent analogy to explain Jainism. He said when you visit a vegetable market, it is very crowded, but when you visit a diamond jewellery shop, it is never crowded. Jainism is like diamond jewellery – it is exquisite and rare. It is so rich that it is important to spread its teachings and doing that scientifically would be the best way. He expressed his full support in initiatives to blend science and spirituality. He then released the book “*Jain Philosophy: A Scientific Approach to Reality*”, proceedings of the Conference mentioned earlier.

This was followed by Prof. Muni Mahendra Kumar ji’s address who strongly advocated the requirement of conducting scientific research in spirituality for the benefit of humanity at large. He summarised all the efforts being taken in this direction and explained how it is the need of the hour to integrate science and spirituality to create world peace and a happy and harmonious society.

Dr. Bipin Doshi, Vice president of World Jain Confederation, then emphasized the need for creating more infrastructures for the blending and practical use of science and spirituality and asserted that the entire Jain community in Mumbai is well equipped to meet the needs. The last event of the Symposium was the felicitation of the toppers of various courses – certificate, diploma, M.A., M.Phil. Ph. D, etc. of 2017-18 of Jain Academy Educational Research Centre Promotion Trust, Department of Philosophy (University of Mumbai).



Shri V.C. Kothari, Member, Governing Council of WJC, gave vote of thanks with a request to support all good deeds with time, money or other resources to get salvation ultimately.

The event concluded with the recitation of the Mangal Path and National Anthem.

The event was attended by various prominent personalities and scholars like Dr. K.P. Mishra, Dr. A.D. Sawant, Shri Sumatichand Gouthi, Shri Bhanwarlal ji Karnawat, Shri Khyalilal ji Tater, Shri Rajkumar ji Chaplot, Shri Chandraprakash Madrecha, Shri Mahendra Tater, Shri Rajesh Chaudhary, Shri Mukesh Dhakad, Shri Kuldeep Baid, and others.





The event was successful due to the special efforts of Shri Praveen Dhariwal, Shri Ashok Kothari, Shri Navratan Ganna, Shri Sumerchand Surana, Shri S.K. Jain, Shri V.C. Kothari, Shri Kamlesh Jain, Smt. Shilpa Chheda and Ku. Pooja Banthia. The convenor was assisted by Smt. Varsha Baid.

The whole credit for the financial support in organising the Symposium and in the publication of the Proceedings goes to the World Jain Confederation and Rosy Blue Foundation, Mumbai. BMIRC, JVBI and I-AIRTST, Mumbai are grateful to Shri Arun Bhai Mehta and Mr. Vimal ji Kothari, associated with World Jain Confederation, for this invaluable support.