



अहिंसा परमो धर्मः*

International School for Jain Studies

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Announces in partnership with Jain community in USA, Canada, Europe and India,

2nd BHAGWAN MAHAVIRA FELLOWSHIP TO STUDY PRĀKRṬA IN INDIA (FREE TO SELECTED PARTICIPANTS) (9 months: August 17th, 2021– May 16th, 2022)

OBJECTIVE

To promote and build a cadre of serious Jain scholars well versed in Jain Āgamic language Prākṛta, its education and Research in North America, Europe and India. This is the second such program being offered.

PREAMBLE

To understand properly, rationally and critically and to appreciate any religious tradition, it is important for scholars to go to the source religious texts, called scripture/canons or Āgama so that the exact pronouncements of the promulgator of the traditions are understood and researched on to continue the tradition of old scholars like Jacobi, A. N. Upadhye, Padmanabh Jaini to name a few, did.

To fill this void, ISJS in partnership with Mahavir Vision Inc (MVI). and Jain Academic Foundation of North America (JAFNA), USA, intends to develop a cadre of Jain dharma study scholars with adequate proficiency in Prakrit language. In this connection, the first batch of three participants were selected. They attended the first program 'Prākṛta language' in India from September 1st 2019 - March 20th 2020. The program was short closed due to restrictions imposed by the pandemic Covid-19. A number of other scholars have attended ISJS programs in Prākṛta studies for period ranging 2 to 3 months.

THE PROGRAM

This program is highly subsidised by ISJS and MVI and JAFNA to attract the finest talents. The Prākṛta program will start at ISJS Pune, India in association with sister organization 'Sanmati Teerth, an institution involved in research and teaching Prākṛta for over a decade'. The participants will visit Vishwa Bharti at Shantiniketan, University of Gujarat in Ahmedabad and return to Pune.

ISJS invites THREE young scholar/s with philosophy or languages or religious studies from North America / Europe / India for one 2021-2022 academic year (two semesters) to apply for this program to learn Prākṛta so that they can read Jain canons, understand their meaning and intent properly. On return, they will use Prākṛta language in their research and also initiate its use in teaching in their university so that a cadre of such scholars develops. The preliminary outline of the program is as follows:

SYLLABUS DETAILS

1. **Module-I (Introductory at Pune for one month)**
Prākṛta Language, its Origin and Significance; Phonetic Changes; literature-drama, poems, philosophy, narrative etc.; Devnagri lipi.
2. **Module-II (Grammar at Shantiniketan & Ahmedabad for five months)**
 - i. Phonology, Development of OIA sounds in Prākṛta (MIA)
 - ii. Phonetic Tendencies, Sandhi in Prākṛta, Morphology
 - iii. Pronouns, verbs and Indeclinable
3. **Translation of some verses from scriptures, some stories from narrative literature, writing essays, speaking at Pune for 3 months**

FELLOWSHIP TO EACH PARTICIPANT (except travel costs to India and back)

- a. This is a heavily subsidised program by Jain Community in North America, Europe and ISJS. The selected participants to the program shall pay their own air travel to India (Pune), visa and medical insurance costs for the stay in India.
- b. ISJS will provide free boarding lodging and local travel related to the program in India. Alternatively, ISJS will provide a monthly stipend to the participant for such arrangements if the participants wish to make these themselves.
- c. The selection panel will consist of a panel of one professor each from European and US Universities and ISJS nominee.

There may be some independent candidates who will be sponsored by some private donors/foundations. Such scholars should send their applications with the recommendations of their University department head.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

ISJS will also invite applications from interested candidates from other universities directly through open advertisement to apply for these two semesters (nine months) study of Prākṛta in India. They will be requested to send their applications with two recommendation letters (to be sent directly by the recommending faculty member) to isjs.india@gmail.com and scjain@earthlink.net detailing their past educational and research/teaching achievements in Jainism, Buddhism and Indian languages like Hindi/Sanskrit or Prākṛta. Two positions will be kept in this category.

The selection panel will consist of a panel of one professor each from European and US Universities and ISJS nominee.

However, the university where the participants are currently studying or are connected are encouraged to send the applications of interested candidates to ISJS.

Last date of receipt of applications:	May 1st 2021.
Final selection will be announced by:	June 1 st , 2021.

A brief outline of the program in India along with comments from the first batch of the program are available on www.isjs.in. [Click here](#) to read.