

FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR'S DESK

We are pleased to present this issue of *ISJS-Transactions* to our readers. It comprises three research articles and one book review, each addressing distinct themes within Jain Studies.

The first two articles explore the Jain Doctrine of Karma, while the third offers a comprehensive bibliography on Jain castes in contemporary India.

The first article, “The Significance of ‘Means of Actions’ in Jain Karma Doctrine” by Prof. Subhash C. Jain, examines the concept of “Means of Actions”, or *nimitta*—external, auxiliary, or apparent causes that facilitate transformation. These “means of actions” act as facilitators. They do not themselves become the effect, nor do they compel change; rather, they accompany the process when the *upādāna* (material cause) is ripe. Prof. Jain distinguishes between universal, invisible consequences (karma bound to the karmic body) and non-universal, visible consequences shaped by external circumstances. The author “further demonstrates that the karmic process is neither strictly deterministic nor wholly indeterminate, as individuals exercise constrained free will in selecting the means of action.”

The second article, “The Burden of Karman: Disease, Healing, and Karmic Theory in Jainism” by Miss. Joanna Flynn, explores the intricate relationship between karmic theory and illness. It highlights how the accumulation of three specific karmas—*nāma*, *vedanīya*, and *āyus*—is closely associated with disease. The Jain framework of karmic causation allows for consideration of natural factors such as aging, lifestyle, and bodily conditions in understanding illness. Drawing upon canonical and narrative literature, the paper reviews diverse perspectives on the curability of diseases and examines the possibilities of recovery or healing through divine grace, ritual practices, and austerities.

The final article in this issue, “Names and Number of Jain Castes/Communities in Contemporary India” by Prof. Prakash C. Jain, Dr. Manoj K. Jain, and Dr. Kapil Dahiya, draws upon the published findings of the Anthropological Survey of India’s *People of India* project. As its title suggests, the article seeks to present both the names and numerical distribution of Jain castes across India, alongside an authentic bibliography on the subject. The authors emphasize that this study offers only preliminary insights into a significant social-organizational feature of the Jain community—one that, for various reasons, continues to remain among the least researched in the Indian context.

This issue also includes a review of *Jains in India and Abroad: A Sociological Introduction*, authored by Prof. Prakash C. Jain. The review, written by Ms. Anahita Hoose, offers a critical appraisal of the book’s contribution to the sociological study of Jain communities both within India and across the diaspora.

I extend my gratitude to all the authors for their scholarly contributions to this volume. My sincere thanks go to Dr. Shugan C. Jain, President ISJS, for his continuous support and guidance; to Dr. Shrinetra Pandey for his editorial expertise; to Dr. Anahita Hoose and Ms.

Pragya Jain for their editorial assistance; and to Mr. Gopal Kudale for his technical support in uploading the journal to our website.

We warmly welcome valuable suggestions from readers and contributors to further enhance the quality of the journal.

July 25, 2026

Prakash C. Jain