

Jaina Education Committee - Activity Report of 2020

Important Note

The Education Committee requests you to read this 6-page article because it summarizes all current projects of the Committee. These projects are particularly important to understand the basics and fundamental principles of Jainism

Jaina Education Pathashala Activity:

We prepare, publish, and distribute Jain Pāthashālā Education Material to support all JAINA Centers of North America. Following is the summary:

- Elementary Level1 Pathashala – 05 to 09 Years – 6 Books
- Middle School Level2 Pathashala – 10 to 12 Years – 3 Books
- High School Level3 Pathashala – 13 to 15 Years – 1 Book
- College Level4 Pathashala – 16 and Up – 1 Book
- JAB - Jain Academic Bowl Manual (400 pages) covers entire spectrum of Jain philosophy, Conduct, History, Literature, and Stories.

Reference Books and Other Material Published:

Series	Name of Reference Book
JES 901	Jainism and Spiritual Awakening
JES 902G	જૈન દર્શન અને આચારની સરળ સમજ (Gujarati)
JES 911	Essence of World Religions
JES 921	The Book of Compassion (English)
JES 921G	The Book of Compassion (Gujarati)
JES 921H	The Book of Compassion (Hindi)
JES 931	English Pratikraman
JES 933	Jain Puja Book – Ashta-Prakari Puja and Shanti Kalash
JES 941	Jain Sutra Book with Simple meaning in English
JES 981	Ashtapad Tirth Booklet
JES 982	Being Jain in College-An Experiential Guide
JES 851	Tirthankar & their Lānchhan GAME

To view short summary of all Pathashala books and to download pdf files of all Jaina Education Books, click the following link:

[https://jainlibrary.org/elib_master/jaina_edu/jaina_edu_book/\\$jes000_pathshala_books_summary_000011_data.pdf](https://jainlibrary.org/elib_master/jaina_edu/jaina_edu_book/$jes000_pathshala_books_summary_000011_data.pdf)

Pathashala Students and Teachers:

There are about 4000 students at various JAINA Centers of North America attending Pāthashālā.

There are about 350 Pathashala teachers and other volunteers to help their Pathashala

Jain eLibrary Statistics:

Education committee supports and manages Jain eLibrary website to provide reference literature to the Pāthashālā teachers, students, adult Swādhyāy groups, and Jain academicians and scholars around the world.

- Jain eLibrary contains 20,000 Books, 5500 Articles, 1500 Audio files. The total number of pages of Jain literature are more than 4.0 million (40 lakhs).
- eLibrary contains literature of all sects: Svetambar, Digambar, Sthanakvasi, Terāpanthi, Shrimad Rajchandra, Kanjswami, Dada Bhagwan, and some Interfaith literature.
- eLibrary adds 20,000 to 30,000 pages of literature every month.
- eLibrary has 65,000 registered users from 165 different countries.
- eLibrary registered Users have download more than 1 million books and articles in 11 years.
- 2.5 million (25 lakhs) visitors have visited the website in 11 years

Jain Academic Bowl (JAB) Team Competition:

- The Jain Academic Bowl is a team competition in a JEOPARRDY format for young Jains which has been held biennially at the JAINA conventions for over two decades.
- Pathshala students, teachers, and coaches enjoy preparing and participating for this three-day long tournament, where the participants get to demonstrate their knowledge on Jain Philosophy, Jain Conduct, the Jain Way of Life, and much more.
- Each JAB game consists of 3 rounds: Individual team round, Category round, and Grab-bag Round. Total questions are about 50 per each game of competition.
- Two years ago, JAINA made JAB as a separate independent committee under the leadership of Shwetaben Daftary of Dallas TX.
- JAB 2019 had 6 Senior teams and 9 Junior. Teams, About 100 students participated in the competition and they played 33 games competing among each other.
- This year the JAB committee introduced a **Beginners Category** of 12 years and younger to increase participatio. Due to the Corona Virus problem, the competition will be held on WebEx.

Searchable Jain Agams:

- Agam Divaker, Muni Shree Deepratna Sagar Maharaj Saheb has completed the editing of all 45 Agams in original Ardha-Magdhi language and their Hindi and Gujarati meaning in Unicode fonts. This work makes all individual Agam searchable.
- Shri Kailash Mutha of Chicago (an active member of Jaina Education Committee) has completed all these Unicode Agams in mysql website database. This makes all 45 Agams searchable together on eLibrary website. We plan to complete this activity before the year end 2020. This activity will provide to users to search for any topic from Jain Agam literature easily from Jain elibrary website.

- We are very thankful to Maharaj Saheb for editing of 15000 Sutras and Gathas in Mool Sutra and their Hindi and Gujarat translation in Unicode fonts. We are also thankful to Shri Kailash Mutha for his hard in migrating the data mysql database.

Blog - Jainism: Know It, Understand It & Internalize It:

- This blog addresses contemporary challenging questions that are faced by our youth, professionals, pathshala students and teachers in today's world.
- There are a wide range of questions from, basic to complex ones that involve experiences of modern times on various topics like **Ahimsa, Rituals, Climate Crisis, Gender Equality, Social Issues, Cleanliness, Health and Medicines, Profession/Business, Penance, Philosophy, Literature, and many others.**
- The blog is written by the 10 committee members, which are from various backgrounds and from various geographic locations within USA and Canada. Most of the blog members are born/raised in USA
- The committee has published articles related to Ahimsa, Rituals, Yoga and Meditation, and Spirituality during COVID-19 pandemic.
- So far, the committee has published more than 20 Articles and more than 100,000 reader viewed them from 20 different countries, and 600 comments have been received on the blog.
- Link to All blogs Q and A: - <https://jainism-says.blogspot.com>

Jain Youth and Young Children Workshop:

Objectives of the Youth Workshop

- To offer Jain youth workshop to North American youths and children who do not have easy access to Jain Pathashalas.
- To teach core Jain values and principles to our children in a way they can understand and relate to.
- To empower the children to make good choices, to develop good characteristics, and in the process to become a resilient and compassionate human being
- A humble effort to establish a strong foundation and to cultivate the right mindset in children that will enable them to navigate life skillfully.
- Each class was limited to 20 students and within 2 days all four classes were full.

Four Volunteer Pathashala teachers conduct this workshop on WebEx.

Sejal Shah (NC) and Ritaben Lodaya.(NC) and Shruti Doshi (VA) and Pratiksha Shah (VA)

Jain Quantum - Ultimate Jain Literature Search Engine:

- For over 10 years, the Jain eLibrary website has continued to provide literature to spiritual seekers and scholars around the world.
- Now taking a step further, we are moving to support a "Quantum" search capability over the Jain eLibrary of its 25000 Books and articles.

- We aim to provide an unprecedented search capability to our worldwide user base without compromising the quality of the content. Jain Quantum was born out of the need for a detailed search within the textbook.
- Currently, more than 3000 English books of Jain literature of Jainelibrary have been indexed on Jain Quantum website and we will continue to add more books.
- We have released our Jain Literature search engine Jain Quantum for public usage. Please try it out at <https://jainqq.org>
- The entire quantum search program is developed by YJA youth technology director Anish Visaria of NJ and supported by Rajesh Salecha of Jaina Education Committee.

Jain Education Adult Workshop

- An incredible opportunity to learn Jainism from the comfort of our homes
- Organized, structured, and interactive sessions to gain knowledge in Jain principles/fundamentals and its practical application
- Wide range of topics from Fundamentals of Jainism to Karma Philosophy to Jain Scriptures & Jain Universe, Six Dravya, 14 Gunsthanak and many more to be covered
- These workshops are held twice a week and designed particularly for the convenience of attendees in different time zones around the world. The first workshop is held on Wednesday evenings, for the convenience of USA attendees. The second, on Tuesday mornings (for the convenience of attendees from different countries around the world like India, UK, Australia, Kenya, UAE, etc.)
- All sessions are conducted primarily in the English language and recorded
- People from different faiths have been able to understand and deepen their knowledge about Jainism especially as sessions are conducted in English
- All recorded sessions, which include power point presentations and Q&A, are made available at the this link - [https://jainelibrary.org/\\$workshop_usa/index.html](https://jainelibrary.org/$workshop_usa/index.html) after the completion of each session.

The recordings are posted as playlists for easy accessibility on YouTube under the **Jain Workshop USA** channel. The recordings are labelled with related topic names, date and content description for easy searching. The recorded Q&A sessions are also individually classified, labelled and posted to the same channel.

- **YouTube Channel Statistics from January 2020 till now:**

Views: 12,700+, Subscribers: 325+, Recordings: 230+

- **Feedback:** These workshops have received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Feedback ranging from “*please, never stop these sessions*” to “*very beneficial for both teachers and parents.*” Many parents have even commented that they have made Pravinbhai’s discourses a family event every Wednesday evening!

Paryushan English Pratikraman & Daily Swādhyāy:

JAINA Education Committee members presented the following programs to celebrate the Paryushana Parva 2020 on WebEx

English Pratikraman Conducted by Aneri, Arnav, Sejal, and Bhairav Shah; and Hetali, Kunal, Ritaben, and Mayurbhai Lodaya.

- One-hour Swadhyay session in the evening from 9 to 10 PM ET everyday for 6 days which was attended by 75+ attendees regularly
- Live English Pratikraman streaming on the first and last day of Paryushan which was attended by 175+ families
- Detailed pre-recorded Videos of English Pratikraman (JES 931) by Jaina Education Committee members were uploaded on YouTube beforehand to enable people around the world to perform most important ritual at their home and at their convenient time.
- Received great positive feedback from the attendees of daily swadhyay and live pratikraman

Viewers on YouTube: (as of November 2020)

- Live stream of Samvatsari English pratikraman - 1295 views
- Live stream of English pratikraman (August 15th) - 790 views
- Understanding of English Pratikraman ritual (pre-recorded) - 1281 views
- Performing the English Pratikraman ritual (pre-recorded) - 1548 views

Great Positive Feedback on Live Pratikraman:

- This was absolutely incredible--so well done and thoughtful. I have done Samvatsari Pratikraman for 55+ years and have never been as moved during a Pratikraman as I was during today's. I did today's with my husband and kids, and it was a deeply meaningful experience for all of us. Beyond excellent. Bravo. Please keep it up.
- Thank you for providing Samvatsari pratikraman yesterday. It was a thoroughly rewarding experience. The English explanations were very easy to follow and made the pratikraman this year even more engaging for me as I could understand the meaning of each ritual. Also, very impressive was how the entire pratikraman was broadcast without any distractions or glitches. We see technology let us down so many times these days, but this was executed flawlessly. I understand how difficult that is and truly appreciate your efforts.
- Explanation of Pratikraman ritual was done in an excellent way.
- Nicely done. Simple words are not sufficient for all of your efforts--all the volunteers who created the English version of the pratikraman and those who volunteered to explain and recite it
- Pratikraman was very well done with such clear pronunciations especially by young kids/youth was very impressive. Great job to all!

USA Pathshala Teachers WhatsApp Group:

- Whatsapp group has been created for all Jain Pathshala Teachers of North America to share ideas, materials, methods, and teaching techniques
- 200 teachers have joined this group and are benefiting from the shared resources
- Only teaching material is allowed to be posted with no copyright privilege to it
- The long-term goal is to have a database of organized ideas/material available to all at the fingertips
- Admins of this group are: Kinjal and Pritesh Mutha (VA) kinjal2308@gmail.com

Finally, Be Compassionate to All Living Creatures:

Be generous to needy people and kind to Mother Earth and be compassionate to all Living Creatures.

- Please eliminate the usage of Styrofoam and plastic plates, bowls, cups etc... and use biodegradable paper products to save the Earth and entire humanity.
- Please eliminate dairy (milk) products and silver leaf (varakh) from the diet and ritual ceremonies. Be compassionate to five sensed animals. Violence to five sensed animals is considered the highest sin in Jainism.
- Please eliminate the usage of Silk, Wool, Peacock Feathers, milk and Ghee and other animal or dairy products from the Jain ritual ceremonies
- Please practice living strictly Vegetarian (Vegan) life by eliminating the usage of any animal products from our life. In the current high-tech environment, animals are exploited and killed on an exceptionally large scale for any animal products we use or consume.

Your Comments:

If you would like to provide any comments, suggestions, criticism, please send an e-mail to jainaedu@gmail.com and Sejal Shah - sejal2003@gmail.com

With Warm Regards

Members of JAINA Education, Jain eLibrary, and JAB Committees and all other members of sub-committees

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www.jainelibrary.org