

8-WEEK BHAGWAN NAMINATH FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND WRITING SKILLS

(October 16 – December 15, 2023)

Organized by

International School for Jain Studies

(A Division of Amar Prerana Trust, Pune)

in association with

Loyola Marymount University

(Los Angeles, California, USA)

Venue: Shri Atma Vallabh Jain Smarak, GT Karnal Road, Bodhpur, Delhi

BRIEF REPORT OF THE PROGRAM

The initiative by International School for Jain Studies (ISJS) to train young budding scholars of Jainism to enhance their research and writing skills to bring them on par with international scholarship began on October 16, 2023 in association with Loyola Marymount University, California (USA). For this 8-week intensive and residential training program, ISJS selected six candidates after thorough scrutiny of their past and future interests, sincerity and potential along with review of their research proposal sought for consideration and use during the program.

The main components of the program were writing skill, research methodology, Jain technical terms (with their English equivalent and conceptual description), chronology of Jain Acharyas who are known for their literary contribution, and Jain faith and practices.

The program was inaugurated on October 16, 2023 and had two phases: first phase prior to Diwali and second phase after Diwali till December 15, 2023. Based on their research proposals, participants were assigned to write a research paper by applying the techniques of research.

Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Program Director was the key faculty for the entire program. Dr. Swasti Bhattacharya (USA) was a resource person for the first phase and Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Senior Research Fellow, ISJS was another resource person for the second phase of the program.

Dr. Shugan C Jain (President, ISJS) and Prof. Christopher Key Chapple (Director, MA in Yoga Studies, LMU, USA) delivered lectures on Jain faith and practices. For some special sessions, Prof. S. K. Tiwari (Deputy Director, Academic Staff College, BHU), Dr. Ana Bajzelj (UCLA, USA) and Dr. Anahita Hoose (BMPF Fellow at ISJS and Lecturer at UCLA, USA) were invited by ISJS.

Topics covered during the program:

- Important factors to start research
- How to review the research projects of past and ongoing and find the research problem (gap) & its statement
- Selection of topic
- How to start reading a book and what to note
- Literature survey
- Abstract writing
- Joining the conversation about the related subject
- Making claims, sub-claims and support in argument
- What to write in conclusion
- Roman transliteration with proper diacritic marks
- Different citation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)
- Different types of academic writings (research paper, book chapter, monograph, newspaper article, reports, etc.)
- Academic review (review of seminar, conference, event, etc.)
- E-content development
- Sending intent to present a paper in a conference/ seminar as a student
- Designing an academic CV
- Many more

The Bhagwan Naminath Fellowship program was sponsored by Dr. Jasvant Modi, President, Vardhman Charitable Foundation, USA.

Topics of Research papers assigned to the participants:

- **Mr. Shailesh Shinde** (Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute, Deemed University, Pune)

Topic: Defining 'Jain Manuscript Culture'

- **Mr. Rohit Chakote** (Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune)

Topic: Comparative Analysis of Paumachariya and Siyachariya

- **Mr. Sulabh Jain** (University of Mumbai, Mumbai)

Topic: Investigating the Vritti Style of Sarvarthasiddhi through the Preliminary Examination of Selected Sutras

- **Ms. Hansi Surana** (Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur)

Topic: How can Jain Doctrine of Limiting Desires provide a solid Foundation to Minimalism?

- **Ms. Charul Jain** (Central Sanskrit University, Jaipur Campus)

Topic: The Hidden Code of Good Citizenship in Purusharthasiddhyupaya

The participants share their views for the course:

The research fellowship personally enriched me, helping me grow both academically and professionally while providing invaluable resources and a supportive research atmosphere.

~ Charul Jain

The workshop effectively balanced theory lectures with practical exercises, offering valuable insights and enhancing my research and writing skills. Post-assignment discussions with the instructors helped us learn from our mistakes. Overall, it was a valuable and enriching learning experience.

~ Hansi Surana

What more would a research student want? Great guidance from the best faculty and an insight into future Jain academia. Also, an excellent environment of Vallabh Smarak to enhance learning.

~ Sulabh Jain

The BNF exceeded my expectations providing unparalleled opportunities for intellectual growth and collaboration shaping my academic journey.

~ Shailesh Shinde

This course has given me fresh perspectives. I have acquired good understanding of presenting my knowledge and information clearly and confidently. The feedback from instructors is instrumental in refining my writing which will help in my future endeavors.

~ Rohit Chakote