

20th INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR JAIN STUDIES 'ISSJS. 2025-5W'

(June 17 – July 21, 2025)

REPORT

The 20th International Summer School, hosted by the International School for Jain Studies (ISJS), was conducted in collaboration with Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune, India. This five-week program took place in Pune from June 17 to July 21, 2025.



Introduction to ISJS and its Activities by Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Director, ISJS at Inaugural Session

The program welcomed eleven participants from the UK, USA, Bangladesh, and India. The inaugural session was held on June 17, 2025, at Navalveerayatan, Pune, beginning with a serene rendition of the Navakar Mantra by Mr. Akarsh Jain. Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Director of the program, extended a warm welcome to the participants, introduced the activities of ISJS, and delivered the inaugural address.



Dr. Shugan C Jain, Founder and President ISJS, delivering a talk

Over the course of five weeks, 42 lectures covering diverse facets of Jainology were delivered by subject experts. Some engaging discussion sessions were also arranged, allowing participants to reflect and exchange perspectives. Complementing the academic sessions, a series of curated visits to significant sites and interactive experiences were organised. A memorable highlight was the group's visit to a Jain householder family, where they connected with three generations of Jain practitioners. They were warmly received and gained first-hand insights into how lay Jain men and women carry out their daily responsibilities while upholding the principles of Jain practice.



Visit to Jain Householder Family in Pune

Among the enriching experiences, the group was particularly captivated by their visit to the Abhay Prabhavana Museum and Knowledge Centre. The museum's thoughtfully curated exhibits and immersive environment left a lasting impression, offering a deeper appreciation for Jain culture, history, and values. Another highlight of the program was the heritage walk led by Dr. Manjiri Bhalerao, which took the group to culturally significant sites including Dadabari, Gaudi Parshvanath, Pataleshwar, Shanivarwada, and ISKCON. The excursion offered enriching insights into the Jain and Hindu heritage of Pune, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.



AT Abhay Prabhavana Museum and Knowledge Centre, Pune



Interaction with Shri Mahendra Rishiji MS

As part of the field visit series, the group travelled to Panvel to meet Shraman Sangh Yuvacharya Param Pujya Shri Mahendra Rishi ji MS, who graciously engaged in dialogue with the participants and responded to their questions. The journey continued to Nandre in Sangli, Maharashtra, where they met Muni Shri Sarasvat Sagar, Muni Shri Jayant Sagar, Muni Shri Siddh Sagar, and Kshullak Shri Shrut Sagar. These revered ascetics generously devoted time for personal interactions with the group, who attentively observed their *āhāra-caryā* (daily food practices).



Interaction with Digambar Monks at Nandre, Maharashtra

The itinerary also included enriching temple visits to the cave temples in Kagwad and the famous Mahalakshmi temple in Kolhapur, offering deeper insights into the region's religious and spiritual landscape. The group also had the privilege of interacting with Jinsen Bhattarak at Nandani Mutt. These interactions offered participants a rare glimpse into the perspectives and responsibilities of contemporary Jain monastic leadership, further enriching their understanding of Jain traditions in practice.



Interaction with Bhattarak Swami at Nandini Mutt, Kolhapur



Visit to Aga Khan Palace, Pune

As part of the cultural immersion, the group embarked on a day visit to prominent sites in Pune, including the historic Aga Khan Palace, Shrut Bhavan, and Agam Mandir. These visits offered participants a nuanced understanding of India's freedom movement, Jain literature preservation, and spiritual architecture, enriching their appreciation of Pune's multifaceted heritage. A few participants also expressed keen interest in visiting the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI) in Pune. There, they explored thousands of meticulously preserved manuscripts and gained insight into the institute's archival practices and scholarly initiatives that strive to make India's rich heritage accessible to younger generations.



Visit to Shrut Bhavan, Pune

During the program, participants were encouraged to select a research topic aligned with their individual academic interests. They submitted synopses in the early days of the summer school and later presented their research findings on July 20 and 21, 2025. The academic proceedings concluded with a valedictory session, during which participants received their certificates and transcripts. Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Program Director and ISJS-Director, shared reflections on the journey and extended his best wishes for the participants' future endeavors. Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Faculty at ISJS, delivered the vote of thanks and inspired attendees to continue exploring Jain studies. Throughout the program, Ms. Pragya Jain (Research Associate at ISJS), Mr. Harshit Mishra, and Mr. Gopal Kudale offered their support and accompanied the group as needed.



A few Participants with their Certificates after Valedictory Session



Welcomed and hosted by a family at Satara, Maharashtra



At Pataleshwar Cave, Pune



At Gaudi Parshwanath Temple, Pune with Prof. Manjiri Bhalerao



At Dadabari, Pune



Puja in a Shwetambar Temple, Pune

TESTIMONIAL

Coming from Bangladesh, where Jainism is not widely practiced, this summer school provided me with a unique opportunity to explore Jainism beyond the classroom. Meeting distinguished scholars, visiting Jainism-related sites, and attending insightful lectures have greatly enriched my understanding of this profound religion. I am deeply grateful to ISJS for offering me this wonderful opportunity.

~ Ms. Onanna Akter, Bangladesh

The Summer School was a transformative experience beyond academics. Engaging with Shravakas and revered Jain monks offered rare, practical insights into Jain philosophy and daily life. These interactions bridged theory and lived tradition, leaving me with deep respect for the Jain way of life.

~ Mr. Gaurav Singh Rathore, India

The International Summer School for Jain Studies offered a profound immersion into Jain philosophy, history, ethics, and rituals. Engaging with scholars, monks, and householders from both Shwetambar and Digambar traditions enriched my understanding deeply. The facilities, including the library, lodging, and Jain-style meals, were excellent. Grateful to ISJS for this transformative opportunity.

~ Ms. Suvarna Ashok Jain

DAILY SCHEDULE

Date & Day	Time	Topic	Faculty
17 th June Tuesday	14:00 14:20	Registration, handbook etc.	
	14:20 15:00	ISJS Introduction, Guidelines, Q&A, individual interaction	Shrinetra Pandey
	15:20 17:00	Placing Jainism in Indian Philosophical Scenario	Shrinetra Pandey
18 th June Wednesday	09:15 10:45	Jain History Based on Literature and Myths-I (Pre-historic Jainism, 1 st – 23 rd Tirthankaras, Emphasise on 1 st , 22 nd and 23 rd)	Gauri Bedekar
	11:15 12:45	Jain History Based on Literature and Myths – II (History of Jainism Mahavira, his life, teachings, and schism)	Gauri Bedekar
	14:30 16:00	Antiquity of Jainism: Archaeological Evidence	Gauri Bedekar
19 th June Thursday	09:15 10:45	Introduction to Jainism, Jain Salutations, mantra, signs	Shugan C Jain
	11:15 12:45	Metaphysics: Sat, Dravyas, Tattvas, Padarthas (Who am I?)	Shugan C Jain
20 th June Friday	09:15 10:45	Concept of Soul (Jiva)	Shugan C Jain
	11:15 12:45	Karma Doctrine - I	Shugan C Jain
21 st June Saturday		Visit: Abhay Prabhavana Museum and Knowledge Centre	
22 nd June Sunday	09:15 10:45	Use of AI in Jain Studies	Siddharth Dalal
	11:15 12:45	Karma Doctrine - II	Shugan C Jain

23 rd June Monday	09:15 10:45	Dharma in Jainism	Shugan C Jain
	11:15 12:45	Puja, Ritual, Festivals, Pilgrimage, Ceremonies	Shugan C Jain
24 th June Tuesday	09:15 10:45	Jain Values	Shugan C Jain
	11:15 12:45	Non-violent food	Shugan C Jain
	14:30 15:45	Living Moksha	Shugan C Jain
25 th June Wednesday	09:15 10:30	Bases of Jain Ethics	Shrinetra Pandey
	11:00 12:30	Jain Way of Life: Anuvrata and Gunavrata	Shrinetra Pandey
	14:30 16:00	Jain Way of Life: Shikshavrata	Shrinetra Pandey
26 th June Thursday	07:00 19:00	Puja in a Shwetambara Jain temple at Rajgurunagar	
		Visit: Householder family and dinner over there	Mr. Deepak Shah & Family
27 th June Friday	09:15 10:45	Jain Theory of Knowledge – I	Navin Kr. Srivastav
	11:15 12:45	Jain Theory of Knowledge – II	Navin Kr. Srivastav
28 th June Saturday	09:15 10:45	Triratna with special focus on Samyak Darshan	Shrinetra Pandey
	11:15 12:45	Stages of Householder's Life (Pratima)	Shrinetra Pandey
	14:30 16:00	Jain Way of Embracing Peaceful Death (Sallekhana)	Shrinetra Pandey

29 th June Sunday		Visit: Gaudi Parshwanath – Shanivarwada - Pataleshwar – Dadabari – ISKCON	
30 th June Monday	09:15 10:30	Jain Epistemology-1 (Discussion and Q/A)	Shrinetra Pandey
	11:00 12:30	Jain Epistemology-1 (Discussion and Q/A)	Shrinetra Pandey
1 st July Tuesday	09:15 10:30	Ahimsa and Aparigraha: Jain Way of Life	Shrinetra Pandey
	11:00 12:30	Jain Literary tradition – I	Ashok K. Singh
	14:30 16:00	Jain Literary tradition – II	Ashok K. Singh
2 nd July Wednesday	09:15 10:45	Tattvarthasutra Chapter IX. 1-8	Shrinetra Pandey
	11:15 12:45	Jain Art and Iconography	Oshin Bamb
	14:30 16:00	Gunasthan: Stages of Path of Spiritual Purification	Pragya Jain
3 rd July Thursday	09:15 10:45	Jain Cosmology	Pragya Jain
	11:15 12:30	Anekantavad and its applications	Pragya Jain
	14:30 15:45	Discussion on Uniqueness of Jainism	Led by Shrinetra Pandey
4 th July Friday	09:15 10:30	Samayika, Pratikraman	Pragya Jain
	11:00 12:30	Jain Yoga	Ashok K. Singh
	14:30 15:45	Jain Community (online)	Prakash C Jain

5 th July Saturday	09:15 10:45	Jain Kosh Literature -I	Harshit Mishra
	11:15 12:45	Jain Kosh Literature -II	Harshit Mishra
	14:30 16:00	An Overview of Uttaradhyayanasutra	Ashok K. Singh
6 th July Sunday		Off Day	
7 th July Monday	09:15 10:45	Jain Women (online)	Prakash C Jain
	11:15 12:45	Dashavaikalikasutra: Its Uniqueness and Chapter 1 and 2	Ashok K. Singh
	14:30 16:00	Presentation of Synopsis by the participants for one week research and paper writing on any specific topic of Jainism	
8 th July Tuesday	09:15 12:00	Presentation of Synopsis by the participants for one week research and paper writing on any specific topic of Jainism	
	19:00	Visit: Panvel (3.5 hours journey)	
9 th July Wednesday		Interaction with Jain ascetics (Sthanakavasi / Non-Idol-worshiper) at Panvel	
	18:00	Leave for Satara (4.5 hrs journey) and night stay	
10 th July Thursday	07:00	Visit: Nandre, Sangli (2.5 hrs journey)	
		Interaction with Digambar Ascetics, temple visits	
11 th July Friday		Visit: Kumbhoj Bahubali, Jahaj Mandir and nearby place	
12 th July Saturday	07:00	Leave for Navalveerayatan	

13 th – 17 th July Sunday - Thursday		Paper writing	
18 th July Friday		Visit: Gandhi Museum, Shrut Bhavan, Agam Mandir, and check in Hotel Deccan 8 in Pune city	
19 th July Saturday		Research Project/Paper Writing at Firodia Hostel	
20 th July Sunday		Research Project/Paper Writing at Firodia Hostel	
	14:00 17:00	Paper presentation	
21 st July Monday	09:00 11:00	Paper presentation	
	11:30 12:30	Certificate Distribution, End of the Program	



**Dr. Shrinetra
Pandey**
Director, ISJS
& Program Director