

A REPORT ON

FIFTH BHAGWAN MAHAVIRA PRAKRIT FELLOWSHIP 2024-25

The International School for Jain Studies (ISJS) has proudly completed its fifth Bhagwan Mahavira Prakrit Fellowship program from September 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025. This annual program is being conducted by ISJS with the financial support of Vardhman Charitable Foundation, USA (www.jvcf.org) to equip the scholars of Jain studies with proficiency in the ancient language of Jain canonical literature and enabling them to read Jain scriptures.

➤ THE PARTICIPANTS



1. Ramani Swarna

- Based in: Noida, India
- Qualification: MPhil in Philosophy, Delhi University, New Delhi

2. Suvarna Jain

- Based in: Pune, India
- Qualification: Master of Architecture, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi



3. Akarsh Jain

- Based in: Bhopal, India
- Qualification: Master of Arts in Prakrit, Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, Ladnun

4. Aviral Jain

- Based in: Khaniyadhana (Shivpuri), India
- Qualification: Bachelor of Arts, Jagadguru Ramanand Acharya Rajasthan University, Jaipur



5. Rahul Kumar Mangsule

- Based in: Sangli, India
- Qualification: Master of Arts in History, Shivaji University, Kolhapur
- Could not appear for the exams due to a family emergency



SPECIAL APPEARANCE: Ms. Joanna Flynn, Post-graduate student, Ghent University, Belgium attended the program for the first two months. She had visited ISJS on an internship program.

➤ INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The program started on Monday, September 2, 2024, with a formal inaugural session. The participants were introduced to the faculty members. They also introduced themselves sharing their backgrounds and interests. Program Director Dr. Shrinetra Pandey presented the course structure to the participants, along with essential administrative instructions. Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh explained the methodology of the program and motivated the students to study well.

In an engaging encounter, the participants had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Manish Mehta, Chair – JAINA Diaspora Committee, Vice-chair – JAINA Academic Liaison Committee, Member – JAINA Long Range Planning Committee on October 19, 2024.



BMPF Participants and ISJS Faculty Members with Dr. Manish Mehta

➤ COURSE CURRICULUM AND FACULTY MEMBERS

In the nine-month-long program, which began in September, participants studied the renowned Prakrit text *Siddha-hem-shabdanushasan*. Compiled by the 12th-century Jain monk Hemachandra, this work consists of 1,119 sutras covering vowels, simple consonants, conjunct consonants, indeclinables, declensions, conjugations, numerals, and verb substitutions. It also addresses linguistic tendencies such as metathesis and anaptyxis within Maharashtri Prakrit. Additionally, the text encompasses Shauraseni,

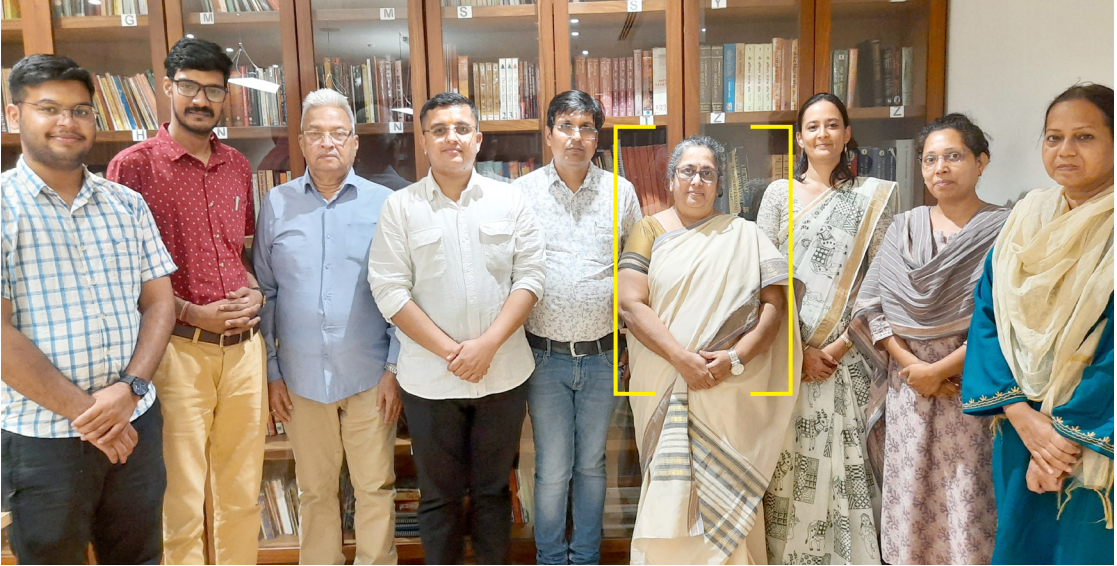
Magadhi, Paishachi, Chulika Paishachi, and Apabhramsa dialects of Prakrit. To ensure a comprehensive understanding, teachers also include Ardhamagadhi in their lessons.

The entire program was conducted in Pune. Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, along with faculty members Ms. Pragya Jain and Mr. Harshit Mishra, taught the course to the participants. ISJS also conducted a short course on the Brahmi script, which helped participants read Prakrit inscriptions written in Brahmi.

➤ PRACTICE AND EVALUATION

In addition to word games, class exercises, and frequent revisiting of the sutras, faculty members utilized excerpts from various Jain and other literary texts to teach translation from Prakrit to English. These texts include *Acharanga*, *Sutrakritanga*, *Uttaradhyayana*, *Dashvaikalik*, *Paumachariyam*, *Saman Suttam*, *Bhagavati Aradhana*, *Mulachar*, *Dravyasamgraha*, *Abhijnan Shakuntalam*, *Gathasaptashati*, *Mricchakatikam*, as well as inscriptions from Ashoka and Kharvel.

To assess participants' progress, monthly tests were conducted, culminating in a final evaluation consisting of three written exams and a viva voce. The final examination was conducted from May 17 to May 25, 2025. Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar was the external subject expert who came to assess the participants this year.



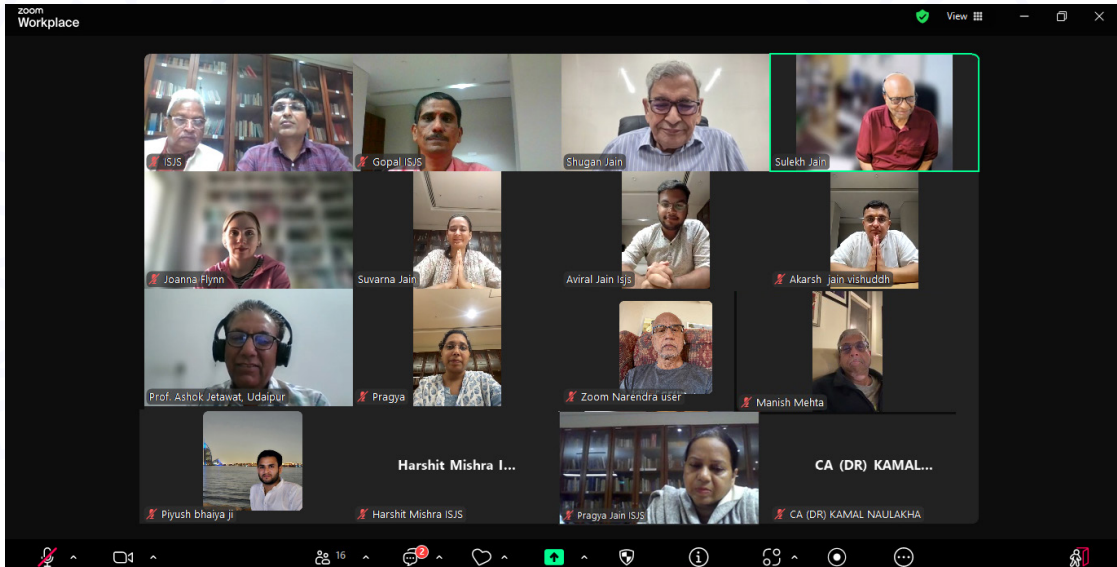
BMPF Participants and ISJS Faculty Members with Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar

➤ CERTIFICATION

Upon successfully completing the course, participants were awarded a PG Diploma by ISJS, in association with Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute (a deemed-to-be university) in Pune.

➤ CONVOCAATION CEREMONY

The certificates were awarded to the participants on May 28, 2025. The convocation ceremony was graced by ISJS-President and Founder Dr. Shugan C. Jain, Co-Founder Dr. Sulekh C. Jain, and ISJS well-wishers Dr. Narendra Parson and Dr. Manish Mehta, who also articulated their best wishes for the participants. A few other scholars from India and abroad also attended the meeting. The ceremony began with the recitation of Navakar Mantra by Ms. Pragya Jain. While ISJS-Director Dr. Shrinetra Pandey presented a comprehensive report on the alumni of the BMPF program, highlighting their current academic associations, all participants expressed their gratitude towards the course, and Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh guided the participants for their future endeavours and proposed the vote of thanks.



TESTIMONIAL

The subject expert for the viva voce shared her views as:

I had the opportunity to evaluate the students at the International School for Jain Studies, and I was truly pleased with their performance. These students demonstrated a thorough understanding of Hemachandra Grammar. In addition to their expertise in grammar, they possessed commendable knowledge of various texts like Acharanga, Dashvaikalika, and Dravyasamgraha. Indeed, ISJS has made a remarkable effort in training its students in diverse aspects of the Prakrit language. I extend my best wishes for their future endeavors.

- Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar

Former Head

Department of Sanskrit and Prakrit Languages

Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune
