

**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR JAIN STUDIES
SYLLABUS**

A. Orientation Day Program

- Registration, collection of dues and documentation
- Facilitation, socialization, Indian and Jain customs
- Rules & regulations to be observed while attending the ISSJS programs; Hand book
- Facilities provided to all attending participants including books etc.
- Jain salutations, mantra, signs
- Introduction to Jainism

B. Academic program

1.0 ANTIQUITY OF JAINISM

- a. Placing Jainism in Indian philosophical traditions
- b. Pre Mahavira: Time cycles, eternity, 1st to 23rd tirthankaras.
- c. Mahavira: His life, society and reforms / teachings
- d. Post Mahavira: schism, sects and sub sects. Important personalities (monks and laity)

2.0 PHILOSOPHY

2.1 Metaphysics & Ontology

- a. Nature of reality (ODP), special aspects compared to other religions
- b. Concept of substance (*dravya*), definition and types; *astikayas* (existents)
- c. Concept of soul, its nature, types, existences
- d. Insentient substance types like matter, dharma etc.
- e. Matter (*pudgala*), concept, types, nature etc.
- f. Seven verities (*tattvas*), entities (*padarthas*).

2.2 Cosmology

- a. Structure of cosmos and its description
- b. Units of measurement of time, space, weight

2.3 Karma doctrine

- a. Karma (physics and physical), karma particles (*varganas*, Nature of karma: eight types and grouping as obscuring and non-obscuring,
- b. Bondage of karmas causes and characteristics and four properties of karmas (*prakrti, stithi, anubhag and pradesa*) Role in our life.
- c. Prevention of bondage, ten states of karmas and their importance in our practice of religion.

2.4 Mysticism

- a. Concept and discussions on the path of purification (Five types of conduct)
- b. Spiritual awakening (*Samyak Darshana*)
- c. Stages of spiritual purification (*gunasthanas*) and their discussions
- d. Liberation i.e. beyond *gunasthanas*.

2.5 Epistemology

- a. Origin and growth of Theory of knowledge including types, Akanlank's classification, acquisition and ownership,
- b. Pramana and Naya
- c. Multiplicity of viewpoints (*Anekanta*),
- d. Syadvada (conditional dialectic) and seven fold expressions (Saptbhangi)

- 2.6 Ethics**
- a. Basis, Concept, Importance of *ahinsa*, *aparigraha* and self-restraint (*sanyama*)
 - b. Basic code of conduct, Purity of food (basic virtues), Seven abstinences Essential duties
 - c. Conduct of the monks & Nuns
 - Concept, Major Vows, attitudes of restraint, carefulness
 - Afflictions and their conquest
 - d. Conduct of laity /householders
 - Concept, classification of householders
 - Minor vows, enhancing vows, teaching vows
 - Stages of development (Pratimas)
 - Discussions of minor vows
 - Self-restraints
- 2.7 Penance**
- a. Concept, types and sub types
 - b. Detailed discussions: internal and external
 - c. Meditation
- 2.8 Art of Dying: *sallekhana* /*santhara*. Peaceful death.**
- 2.9 Jain Values**
- a. Concept, srama, Self-reliance, ahimsa, anekanta, aparigraha, brahmcharya
 - b. Ahimsa
 - c. Anekanta and Aparigraha
- 3.0 SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY**
- a. Jain society/ community, statistics, characteristics
 - b. Diaspora
 - c. Jain women lay and ascetics
 - d. Contribution to society /philanthropy for art, social uplift
- 4.0 CULTURE MATERIAL**
- 4.1** Arts, sculpture, paintings, temple architecture, iconography
- a. Images, icons, idols
 - b. Caves and stone engravings
 - c. Paintings
 - d. Temple and home/town architecture
 - e. Samosarana (holy congregation of the tirthankaras)
 - f. Pilgrim places
 - g. Signs and symbols
- 5.0 CULTURE NON MATERIAL**
- a. Equality of all living beings, casteless society, not birth but your deeds determine your status
 - b. Four fold congregation, importance to those who practice path of purification also
 - c. Fine auspicious beings
 - d. Importance of food and basic personal habits
- 5.1 Literature**
- a. Historical development, classification of literature
 - b. Canonical literature (agamas) of both sects
 - c. Philosophical literature, commentaries

- d. Story literature and world history (Puranas)
- e. Poems, plays, short stories.
- f. Liturgy
- g. Mantras

5.2 Religious Activities

- a. Daily: primary, abstinences, essential duties (*Avashyakas*), worships (pujas), etc
- b. Festivals: Concept, types, celebration (Paryusana, Diwali, Mahavira Jayanti, Akshay Tritiya, fortnightly and four monthly)
- c. Pilgrimage: Concept, types, Important pilgrimage places (Sammed Shikhar, Palitana, Shravanbelgol and others)
- d. Participate in pujas (Diagambar and Shwetambara)

5.3 Scriptures

- a. Uttaradhyayana
- b. Ratna Karanada Shrivakachara
- c. Acharanga
- d. Tattvartha Sutra (Vows, influx and bondage)
- e. Das Vaikalika

C. Social interactions (visiting Jain institutions, householders, monks, nuns, etc.)

D. Pilgrimages, rituals etc. actual observation

Note: The above constitutes the comprehensive syllabus for ISSJS Winter Program.

Recommended Books/Study Materials:

1. Study Notes published by ISJS. Available from www.isjs.in
2. Jainism, Key to Reality edited by Dr. Shugan Jain
3. Jainism (for young inquisitives) by Dr. Shugan Jain
4. Gandhi & Jainism by Dr. Shugan Jain
5. Jains in India and Abroad by P.C. Jain
6. Religion and culture of Jains by Dr. J. P. Jain
7. Jain Way of Life by Mr. Yogendra Jain
8. Path of Purification by Prof. P. S. Jaini
9. Six volumes of SFT encyclopedia prepared by ISJS