

# **INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME**

On

## **UNDERSTANDING JAINISM**

**(July 23 to August 12, 2014)**

### **REPORT**

#### **About Understanding Jainism Programme**

The inspiring force behind the establishment of Jain Vishva Bharati Institute (JVBI) was HH Gurudev Tulsi. JVBI, is an multifaceted excellent academic institute engaged in promotion of the values of ancient civilization, particularly in the field of education, medicine, meditation and research in oriental learning and Jain Philosophy for the last 30 years. The mission of JVBI is to integrate modern science with ancient wisdom of the great spiritual practitioners and visionary seers. The Institute seeks to interweave world and spiritual norms and values with the materialistic and economic fibers of mankind to foster and develop universal human relationships for the peaceful co-existence of individuals, groups, communities, sects, races, religions and nations.

MS Anekant Shodhpeeth is an integral part of JVBI. It has been established to facilitate research work in all discipline in oriental learning. This department is engaged in various research projects, organization of lecture series, and study programs etc. The Understanding Jainism Programme is being organized in this Institute since 2006 in July/August of every year. In this programme the students are oriented with Indian and Jaina culture and philosophy.

#### **Programme - 2014**

A 21 days International Summer School of '**Understanding Jainism**' was organized for International students from July 23, to August 12, 2014. The understanding Jainism Programme of Jain Vishva Bharati Institute is an intensive academic course emphasizing on Jain Philosophy, History, Culture, Ethics, Nonviolence, Meditation etc. The programme was interdisciplinary in the nature, aiming at to facilitate the condensed and in-depth knowledge in twenty one days schedule time encompassing the total hours needed for any three month certificate course. This course was formulated as per credit system and is equivalent to three credit course, undertaking study hours equal to or more than 35 hours.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To understand the concept and ideas of Jainism.
- (ii) To develop understanding and attitude of nonviolence.
- (iii) To familiarize the participants with the philosophy of creative nonviolence in India.
- (iv) To impart training of Preksha Meditation for emotionally balanced life-style.
- (v) To establish the importance and relevance of amity for the survival of living being with peace and harmony.

## **Course, Curriculum and Lectures**

Under this programme, three separate sessions of Jainism, Science of Living, P.M. and Yoga and Nonviolence and Peace comprising the following topics were organized :

### **(a) Jainism**

Introduction to Jainism, Life of Mahavir, Jain Prayer and Mantra, Jain Literature, Jain Life Style, Life of House Holder, Jain Asceticism, Path of liberation, Nine Tatvas, Six Substances & Jain Cosmology, Jain Art & Architecture, Karma Theory, Theory of Knowledge, Jain symbols & Ceremonies, Concept of Nayavada, Environmental Ethics.

### **(b) Science of Living Preksha Meditation and Yoga**

SOL- an Innovative System of Education, Jain Meditation-Then & Now, Nurturing Factors of Meditation, Stress Management & PM, Anupreksha-Auto Suggestion & Contemplation, Leshya Dhyana-Color Meditation, Chakra Meditation, Healing through Sound Energy, Scientific Research in PM, SOL, Asana & Pranayama, Indian Traditions of Meditations, Value Education & SOL, Anuvrat-A movement of Social Reformation.

### **(c) Non violence and Peace**

Conceptual Development of the Philosophy of Nonviolence and its Global implications, Gandhi & Acharya Mahapragya-The Crusader of NV, Ahimsa Yatra, Economics of NV, Nonviolent Communication, Facets of Peace, Eco Spirituality, Conflict Management, Anekant-A Jain Concept of Reconciliation, Training in NV, Vegetarianism.

The students were benefited by the expertise of the eminent scholars of various universities of repute and faculty members of University. The methodology of the entire academic session were lectures, discussion, presentation and interactions etc. The developed study notes on Jainism, Nonviolence and Science of Living and the finalized list of speakers and lectures and daily lecture schedule were provided to the participants.

### **Indian Language Tutorials**

In addition to the daily lecture schedules, community interaction and independent study projects, the participants were provided language tutorials in Hindi/Sanskrit. Tutorials were based on the prescribed curriculum framed by subject expert. The language tutorial fee was included in the programme, and, no extra fee was claimed for.

### **Exam and Evaluation**

On the completion of course the system of evaluation of international grade was adopted, in which, the exam was conducted independently in each of the subject. P.G. students were assigned with a separate project duly supervised by the subject experts. Internal evaluation method was also adopted and marks were awarded in grades.

### **Community Interaction**

The participants of the programme were oriented with Indian culture in general and with the culture of Rajasthan in particular. The students who participated this study tour witnessed the ancient Indian architecture and the places of multi-ethnic religious importance. A visit to wild life sanctuary, trekking to Dungar Balaji and meetings with spiritual personalities, monks and nuns were arranged. The participants visited to places of archeological and historical importance of Ladnun and of adjoining areas. The visit to local Jain families were organized in order to understand the Jain life style and the socio-cultural aspects of Jain laities. With the objective of making the students familiar with applied Jainism.

### **Participants and their Comments**

Participants of the Summer School enjoyed this programme upto their utmost satisfaction and pleasure. Their experience can be viewed from the feedback they provided. Parvin Uddin said, "the programme was very spiritual and inspiring. I learned a lot more than expected, however, the programme should be little longer. The philosophy of Jainism is interesting and it was well taught." Andy Farnadez overall loved this programme and suggested some tips for the betterment of programme. Samantha Quayum enjoyed the field visits and trips to various places. Ankita Bhansali said that by participating in this programme she has been benefitted a lot. Tessu Baradia's experience was amazing and she wishes to again attend this programme in coming years.

## **Methodology of Sessions & Evaluation**

The methodology of the entire academic session was **lectures, discussion, presentation**, etc. Students were provided the developed study notes of the subjects. On the completion of course the system of evaluation of international grade was adopted, in which, the exam was conducted independently in each of the subject. Graduate students were given research project of 50 marks while undergraduates were given assignment of 40 marks on the subject related to non-violence, Jainism and meditation as per their choice. The marks were awarded in grades. All the students did great effort and earned good grades. On 11th August, students shared their experiences and were awarded certificates.

## **Thanks**

We are grateful to our honorable Vice-chancellor, Samani Charitra Prajnaji for guiding us and inspiring students time to time. Thanks to all the Professors, Samanijis and Staff of our institute for sharing their valuable knowledge and guiding students as and when required. The participants were benefitted by the talks of in-house and off-house scholars. Prof. M.D. Thomas (Delhi), Prof. Anurag Gangal (Jammu), Prof. Anupam Jain (M.P.), Prof. Pratap Sancheti (Jodhpur), Prof. Susma Singhvi (Jaipur) shares their views with the participants. The programme was academically convened by Samani Agam Prajna and Samani Rohit Prajna and co-ordinated by Dr. Anil Dhar. The programme was organized by M.S. Anekant Shodhpeeth.

**(Dr. Anil Dhar)**  
Dy. Director, MSASP