

Two-Day National Workshop on “Connecting and Engaging Jain Institutions for a Better Tomorrow”

February 23-24, 2018

Workshop Report



The Department of Jainology and Comparative Religion & Philosophy and Bhagwan Mahavir International Research Center, Ladnun have added one more feature in their cap by successfully organizing a Two-Day National Workshop on **“Connecting and Engaging Jain Institutions for a Better Tomorrow”** on February 23-24, 2018. The chief purpose of this workshop was to develop a better connection among Jain Research Institutions across the country for promoting Jain studies and Research. Jain Visvha Bharati Institute has taken this initiative to offer platform for such an event. It was an innovative approach for locating connections with maximum possible Jain Institutions. The purpose was fully met out in the course of this event. It can be felt by the remarks of participants who said that we could have arranged this dialogue before.

JVBI received good response from various Institutes and almost fifteen representatives from eminent Jain Centers of India came to participate in this noble attempt. The Chief among them were from the following centers:

1. Jain Vidhya Sodh Sansthan, Kolhapur.
2. Bhadarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune.
3. Anekant Sodhpeeth, Kumbhoj, Bahubali.
4. Parshvanth Vidhapeeth Research Institute, Varanasi.



5. Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology, Delhi.
6. Shraman Sanskriti Sansthan, Jaipur.
7. Kundakund Bharati, New Delhi.
8. Jai narain Vyas Univesity, Jodhpur.
9. Samyakgyan Pachrak Mandal
10. JIN Foundation, New Delhi.

The Inaugural Function of the workshop was held at the Seminar Hall, Academic Block of JVBI, Ladnun. The function was presided by prof. B. R. Dugar, Hon'ble Vice-chancellor, JVBI. The chief guest of the function was Prof. S. R. Vyas from MLSU, Udaipur. Prof. Samani Riju Prajna, Head, Dept. of JCRP and Director of the workshop, welcomed all the participants and introduced the chief objectives of the workshop. Prof. S. R. Vyas in his key-note address congratulated Hon'ble VC for organizing the workshop and voiced its utility. Speaking about the three 'yogs' of the Gita namely 'Gyan', 'Bhatki' and 'Karm' propounded by Lord Krishna, he added the forth Yog 'Sahyog' into this compass. The success of anything depends upon the co-operation among the people associated with it. His message was very clear for all the participants that we need to join hands together for the up-liftment of Jain Studies. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor expressed his pleasure at the actualization of his vision and plan. He expected that in future we could get in touch with more Institutions both from India and abroad. He motivated all for establishing better connation among them beyond all possible obstacles so that the goals could be met out with the pace of time. Nothing can be done in isolation, so the need of the day is to head of the path of progress together. If all the participants share the ongoing activities and inform what type of facilities they offer, it may be possible that others can avail some of them with ease. Dr. Yogesh Jain carried out the proceeding of the programme and Dr. Govind Sarswat delivered Vote of Thanks.



The next session of the workshop was held at V.C. conference Hall in which Dr. Samani Amal Pragya represented department of Jainology and JVBI in front of everyone. Very skillfully one by one she unfolded the academic and research activities of Jainology department along with BMIRC. It is well said that first blow is half the battle; Dr. Samani Amal Prajna exemplified it and left the remaining responsibility on the participants yet to come.



After the lunch break a very fruitful session started first of all, with the presentation of Dr. Shushma Guawat from Jain Vidhya Sodhsanathan, Kolhapur. Being run by a trust, JVSS has been a significant body for students and researchers of Jain Studies alike. 'Vardhman Mahaveer' (ISSN 2395-2245) is its research journal. Next in this chain,





Dr. Kamal Kumar Jain, from Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune has elaborately thrown light on the activities of BORI, Pune, specialty the ongoing project of a Dictionary six volumes of which have already been brought out. He showed his worry regarding the closed chair of Jain Studies in Pune University which needs to be activated. Dr. Neminath Shastri from Anekant Sodhpeth, Kolhapur, Bahubali



addresses all and through some photograph showed their institute in a perfect green setting. Their research magazine 'Sanmati' has completed fifty years of its publication. Another eminent academician,



Dr. S. P. Pandey from Parshwanath Vidhyapeeth Research Institute, Varanasi told that their institute is basically inclined towards research. Their institute has a rich library containing over 40,000 books and 2200 manuscripts. Their research journal "Sharaman" (Bilingual) has been in the process of publication since 1949. Their current endeavor is to prepare an Encyclopedia on Jainism. Prof. Sheetal



Chand Jain, from Shraman Sanskriti Sansthan, Jaipur told about the various courses being run there. Almost 400 student are getting value based education in Sanskrit medium. These



students usually go through 50 canonical texts completely during their five years to stay. Dr. D. C. Jain, from Jodhpur, shared his experience regarding the whereabouts of various Jain Research Institutes across the country and what type of activities and services they provide.



Dr. Ashok Singh from Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology, Delhi informed all about the kind of research work going on there.

Next day Prof. Veer Sagar Jain, from Kundkund Bharati, New Delhi addressed all with his



eloquent speech related to not only their own institute but also about the current status of Jain Studies in India. He suggested that we all should work together in this direction with positive approach. "Gyanabhishek" is required like that of "Mastakabhishek" of lord Bahubali in Shravanbelgola. After this last external presentation, once again JVBI representative Samani Sulabh Pragna took over the charge and



gave valuable information related to "Tulsi Pragya" a peer-reviewed UGC approved research journal of JVBI.

Throughout these sessions Prof. S.R. Vyas has been a keen observer and guiding force. He shared his experiences related to various situations to hint at what is really required to solve problems.

Last session was reserved for Group Discussion and the active involvement of all enriched its utility. After ponderng over various things, all decided some common points for further action. Their important suggestions were taken into consideration which are following:

1. Journal Exchange (E-Journal): Subscription of journals of other institutes and invite scholarly articles for publication.
2. To prepare a list of such scholars and renowned thinkers for encouragement of research.
3. List of various topics for Ph.D.: in order to avoid the repetition and to trace out unobserved research areas, it is necessary to prepare such a performa.
4. Comprehensive syllabus for students of Jainology incorporating the needs of job market.
5. Workshop for all supervisors: for the proper training of newly recognized research supervisors for guiding and selecting a topic with main focus on Research Methodology.
6. Research tourism: Scholars should visit at least seven to eight Research Institutes and the concerned authority should certify that visit and make arrangements for the scholars. Dr. Pandey assured that Pasharvanaath Research Institute can make arrangements for scholars for a week.
7. JVBI in ready to publish the information of research work carried out, if the invited guests provide their information and associated institutions from 2006 to 2018.





8. JVBI offered to invite students of the invited institutions to attend summer class/seminars/workshops.
9. Academic tours among all institution.
10. A newsletter of Jain-Institution shall be published by JVBI containing information related to upcoming events/projects of Jain Institutions.



Prof. Samani Riju Pragya, at the end of this discussion, summarized the activities of this workshop in a nutshell. Expressing her deep sense of gratitude for all the participants, and especially for Prof. S. P. Vyas, she hoped that this workshop is the first step in the direction of building a better connection among the invited institutions and any one among all of us would certainly organize the next workshop very soon. All the members assured JVBI, for this. Prof. Samani Riju Pragya provided a format to all for preparing a sound database of all Jain institutions. Prof. S. P. Vyas has been influential in the formation of this Performa.



Prof. B. R. Dugar, Hon'ble V C, JVBI, said, "This workshop is our hope." We can hope that this initiative will prove itself to be a milestone for the better tomorrow of Jain Studies. The presence of participants is a testimony that all of us are eager to prepare a roadmap in this direction. The Workshop ended with positive feedback from Dr. Pandey and Prof. Veer Sagar Jain. Dr. Yogesh Kumar Jain gave the vote of thanks.

