

Activities & Achievements

1. At the initiative of Professor Narendra Bhandari and Professor Surendra Singh Pokharna, several likeminded scholars discussed the need for having an academic forum to carry out studies and research on concepts in Jain darshan documented in various Agams. As a consequence of this, the JAS was formed. The current fellowship of the Jain scholars coming from various professions, in the Academy is about 50 <www.jainscholars.com>.
2. JAS has acquired the required infrastructure. Furnished office space, with modern digital facilities (internet, phones etc) have been made available gratis by Logus Technologies, at Ahmedabad. JAS is registered as a trust with the Charity commissioner, Ahmedabad (E/23135/Ahmedabad of 1st April, 2021). A bank account has been opened with ICICI bank.
3. JAS has its own web site <www.jainscholars.com> where, many useful lectures by our fellows and their publications are available.
4. A library with essential books including ancient scriptures and recent books by renowned authors from India and abroad is available for users. Details are available on our website.
5. JAS has adopted a fully democratic structure and operational system and is run by its Fellows and does not subscribe to any particular sect or social groups or religious leaders. The constitution of JAS has been uploaded on the website.
6. **Mentors:** Some scholar saints i.e. Acharya shri Kanaknandiji, Acharya shri Vijay Nandighoshsuriji, Munishri MahendraKumarji, Rashtrasant Shri Namramuniji and Samani Chaitanya Prajnaji have consented to guide the academy
7. JAS has started publishing a peer reviewed publication titled “**Proceedings of the Jain Academy of scholars (JASP)**”. We have published 3 volumes under a dynamic Editorial Board. One issue is devoted to cosmology (Loka) and the other to theory of knowledge (*Jnan mimansa*).
8. The Academy holds weekly lectures by world renowned experts on various aspects of Jain philosophy and science. When detailed interaction is required, Round Table Discussions are held.
9. The Academy holds business meetings where all operational decisions regarding the Academy are discussed and majority decisions are taken.
10. The Academy has instituted awards for outstanding contributions to Jain philosophy, work of excellence and appreciation awards to scholars selected globally. The list of awardees for 2021 is available on the website.
11. Resolving Lokakash discrepancies: There are serious discrepancies between modern cosmology and description of *loka* given in Agams. Following a series of lectures by eminent scholars, a concluding seminar was held in July 2021 in the presence of some Jain scholars. Summary of the same will be uploaded on the website.
12. JAS has taken active interest and was a **knowledge partner** in organising second International Conference on Science and Jain philosophy (ICSJP-2) on **Consciousness** held during March 19-22, 2021 with Florida International University (FIU), USA (**T**). Samani Chaitanya Prajnaji, founder fellow of JAS, acted as Director General of the conference. In addition, many members of JAS were actively involved in organisation and were part of faculty.

Action Plan for 2021-25

Encouraged by the success during the first year we want to enlarge the scope of our activities. Salient features of the next year vision is as follows;

1. We will continue with the weekly thematic lectures by renowned scholars, frequent Roundtable discussions and seminars on topics related to Jain philosophy and science. We will strive to include more disciplines in presentation and discussion.
2. **Participation of youths:** To encourage youth, it is planned to provide them a bigger role in activities of JAS, in its organisation and at weekly lectures where they can present their views.
3. **Jain lifestyle:** Jain lifestyle and interpersonal relationships have become more ritualistic rather than emotional. Research is needed to impress upon superiority of Jain lifestyle and how to amalgamate with current practices.
4. Research will be planned related to environment, violence, and economics vis a vis Jain lifestyle.
5. **Jain literature:** To prepare a comprehensive catalogue / directory of Jain literature, scholars and institutions with their contact information.
6. **Application of Jain logic:** Jain logic is septa-valued logic in contrast to computers which have been using binary logic, YES and NO. The quantum computers using quantum solutions have been developed which is close to reality. We want to develop septarian logic based protocols for machines of daily use.
7. **Experimental verification of theory of Karma:** Theory of karma is fundamental to Jainism, Buddhism and Hinduism. However, it has little acceptance amongst masses. With advanced molecular techniques we can delineate the pathways of *ghati* and *aghati* karmas in the body, and influence on genetic code, by suitably designing experiments to verify some hypotheses.
8. **Thrust areas** of research for the next 5 years:
 - a. **Cosmology:** discrepancies between modern cosmology and Jain lokakash
 - b. **Chetana** (consciousness) to research along the lines of physics, chemistry, biology, neurosciences and philosophy.
 - c. **Dietary practices and Jainism:** Our diet has become more *swad* (taste) centric with leaning toward fast food. Physiological and psychological effects of Jain practices of meditation and dietary habits need to be quantified with biomedical and other parameters. Four different groups i.e., i) Sadhus with minimum footprint of violence ii) Jain *shravaks* practicing Jain life style rigorously, and iii) Jain *shravaks* who are lax and (iv) Non-Jains. Approximately 50 subjects in each of group will be examined for one year.
 - d. **Meditation:** To investigate psychological and physiological effects of different components of meditation in different practices of yoga e.g. *kayotsarg*, *pranayam*, *leshya dhyana*, and *dharna*.
 - e. **Environment and life style:** Jain lifestyle is probably most nature friendly and produces a minimum disturbance to the environment. This will be researched and a holistic module will be developed.
 - f. **Sattva Jeeva:** The 4 types of one-sensed living-beings, excluding plant-life, will be studied to establish scientific basis of their behaviour. Plant processes will be studied separately.
9. **Collaboration:** To enhance collaboration with Jain academic Institutions in India and abroad.
10. To include current technologies in Jain life style e.g. Mobile app for individual Violence index
11. To strive for financial sustainability to carry out research projects and publications and for having financial viability on long term basis.