



**St. Vincent College**  
**(Affiliated to Savtribai Phule Pune University)**  
**Pune -411037**

|                                  |                                                                             |                    |              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Title of the Event               | Interreligious dialogue                                                     |                    |              |
| Date of the Event                | 14th September 2024                                                         | Place of the event | Online event |
| Objectives of the Event          | To facilitate interreligious dialogue and understanding on different issues |                    |              |
| Name/s of the Resource Persons   | Dr. Sunitha Jain                                                            |                    |              |
| A short narration of the program |                                                                             |                    |              |



## Online Interreligious Talk: “What is the Importance Given to Nature or the Earth in My Religion?”

An insightful Online Interreligious Talk on the topic “What is the importance given to Nature or the Earth in my Religion?” was held on Saturday, 14th September 2024, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM IST via Zoom. The session featured Dr. Sunitha Jain, an esteemed scholar holding an M.A. and Ph.D. in Jainology from the University of Madras, Chennai. She presented the topic from the perspective of Jainism, offering profound insights into its ecological ethos.

### Key Highlights of the Session:

#### 1. Reverence for Nature in Jain Philosophy:

Dr. Jain began by explaining the foundational Jain principle of **Ahimsa (non-violence)** and its intrinsic connection to the environment highlighting its relevance in contemporary ecological concerns.

#### 2. Five Great Vows and Environmental Ethics:

Dr. Jain elaborated on the five great vows (Mahavratas) of Jain monks and their relevance to environmental sustainability:

- **Ahimsa:** Non-violence towards all forms of life, promoting ecological harmony.
- **Satya:** Truthfulness, which fosters transparent relationships with the environment.
- **Asteya:** Non-stealing, discouraging the overexploitation of natural resources.
- **Brahmacharya:** Self-restraint, aligning with minimalism and conservation.
- **Aparigraha:** Non-possession, advocating for reduced consumption and sustainable living.

#### 3. Jain Texts and Ecology:

Quoting from classical Jain scriptures, Dr. Jain shed light on the concept of “**loka**” (the universe)



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as a living entity. She explained the Jain view of interdependence, where every component of nature—air, water, soil, and vegetation—is considered sacred and deserving of respect.

**4. Practical Implications in Modern Times:**

Dr. Jain discussed how Jain principles can serve as a blueprint for addressing modern ecological challenges. She provided examples of how Jain communities worldwide are leading eco-friendly initiatives, such as promoting vegetarianism, supporting organic farming, and practicing resource conservation.

**5. Interactive Discussion:**

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A segment, where attendees posed thought-provoking questions about implementing Jain ecological principles in daily life.

The session successfully underscored the synergy between spiritual wisdom and environmental consciousness.

|                                                     |                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name of the Collaborating Agency                    | Snehsadan                                                                                   |
| Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants | Participants learned about ecological perspectives from Jain Religion                       |
| Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team           | To impart Ecological perspectives from Jain religion and facilitate interreligious dialogue |
| No. of Participants                                 | 20                                                                                          |
| Faculty in Charge                                   | Prof Gilbi John                                                                             |
| Documents Attached                                  | 1. Photographs                                                                              |



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Photograph

**ST. VINCENT COLLEGE, PUNE 37**

**in collaboration with**

**SNEHASADAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION, PUNE 30**

**Inter-Religious Talk On**

**What is the importance given to Nature or  
the Earth in my Religion?**

**Jainism**

On

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**



**Zoom Link**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8184452751?pwd=bIr4cPwI1UPmtVMdPzaCuBka8tnHSi.1>



**Zoom Meeting Details**

Meeting ID: 881 8445 2751  
Passcode : 997766

**Dr. Sunitha Jain. M.A., Ph.D**  
**in Jainology from University of Madras, Chennai**