

FRONT MATTER

Foreword from Sapan Bafna and Nirmal Baid, Co-Chairs, Jain Education and Research Foundation

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Samyak: An Undergraduate Journal of Jain Studies

In a world often marked by division and consumption, what can the timeless wisdom of Jainism teach us? The profound yet simple teachings of aparigraha (non-possessiveness), anekāntavāda (non-onesidedness), and ahimsā (non-violence) offer a path toward generosity, pluralism, and compassion for all sentient beings. Guided by these principles, the Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF) is proud to support the launch of *Samyak: An Undergraduate Journal of Jain Studies*, a peer-reviewed, open-access platform showcasing exceptional student scholarship at the University of North Texas (UNT) and beyond.

Since our endowment in 2017 established the Bhagwan Adinath Professorship in Jain Studies at UNT, JERF has been committed to advancing academic exploration and community engagement rooted in Jain values. *Samyak* represents a milestone in this mission, providing a global stage for undergraduate students to explore the relevance of Jain principles in addressing modern challenges like sustainability, ethical living, and interfaith dialogue. Under the leadership of Dr. Leah Kalmanson, the journal embodies the spirit of Jainism's universal teachings, inviting both Jains and non-Jains to engage with its insights.

This inaugural issue is a testament to the vibrancy of Jain Studies at UNT. As we launch *Samyak*, JERF envisions a bold future for the journal, reaching students, scholars, and communities worldwide.

We invite readers to explore *Samyak* and join us in celebrating the voices of young scholars who are shaping the future of Jain Studies. Together, let us amplify the wisdom of Jainism for a more compassionate world.

With gratitude and optimism,

Sapan Bafna and Nirmal Baid
Co-Chairs, Jain Education and Research Foundation

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