

GYAN PANCHAMI

Gyan meaning knowledge is regarded as the light of the inner soul. Gyan helps in realizing the difference between truth and false. Knowledge is invaluable for everyone. It is a form of wealth that expands on distribution. Knowledge always illuminates the path of life.

Celebrated on the fifth day after Diwali "Gyan Panchami" - also known as "Laabh paacham", is a day when Jains worship and appreciate all aspects of knowledge and is considered one of the most important of all Jain Festivals.

Gyan Panchami is celebrated as a day of honouring learning & true knowledge (Samyak Gyan), recognising the importance of our scriptures (Agams) and spiritual teachers (Gurus).



JAIN FESTIVAL VENERATING KNOWLEDGE

Religious books preserved in bhandars, pathshala libraries are cleansed and worshipped - doing Vaskshep (sandalwood powder) puja. Rituals involving books and writing instruments are performed. Prayers are said for guidance to acquire the right knowledge.

On this day, Jains try and focus on shedding knowledge obscuring karma (Gyanavarniya Karma).



GYAN PANCHAMI JAIN FESTIVAL

FIVE TYPES OF JAIN KNOWLEDGE

Shruta Jnana

Shruta Jnana is knowledge acquired through understanding of verbal and written sentences, other sources, other people through observation. This is indirect knowledge obtained through description, authority, study, hearing and listening.

Avadhi Jnana

Avadhi Jnana is direct knowledge beyond the boundaries of one's ordinary awareness, which is not available to everyone.. Avadhi Jnana is acquired through one's psychic abilities, clairvoyance and intuitive awareness by overcoming the limitations of time and space.

Jain Knowledge

Tattvartha Sutra states Jain knowledge is of five kinds :

- Mati Jnana – sensory knowledge
- Shruta Jnana – scriptural knowledge
- Avadhi Jnana – Clairvoyance
- Manaparyaya Jnana – Telepathy
- Kevala Jnana - Omniscience

The first two kinds of knowledge are regarded as indirect knowledge and remaining three as direct knowledge.

Manaparyayai Jnana

Manaparyaya Jnana is knowledge gained through the reading of others' minds and thoughts. Mahaparyaya is facilitated when an individual attains or nears the state of perfection. In that state, his own ego becomes silent and dormant. Thereby he is able to enter into any consciousness at will and experience oneness with it.

Mati Jnana

Mati Jnana is the knowledge of the mind, usually gained through our senses, memory, remembrance, cognition and deductive reasoning. From a soul's perspective, this is indirect knowledge derived through the agency of the mind and its faculties (senses).

Kevala Jnana

Shredding of the karmic particles, the soul acquires perfect knowledge.

With such a knowledge, the knowledge and soul becomes one. Such a knowledge is Kevala Jnana. It is the highest knowledge and only omniscient souls have access to it.