

Report on special lecture by Prof. Christopher Key Chapple and Book Inauguration Ceremony

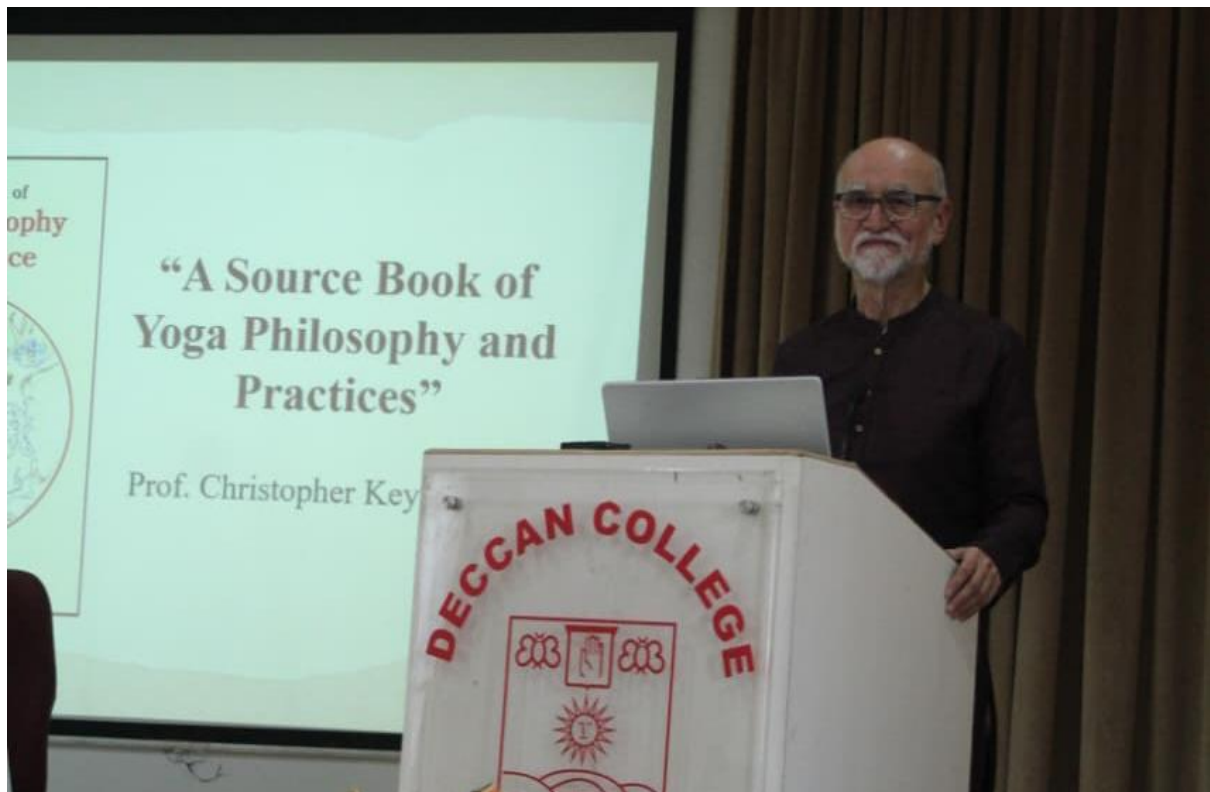
Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune, had organised a special lecture by Prof. Christopher Key Chapple on 18th December 2025 at Prof. S. M. Katre Hall (New Convocation Hall).

Prof. Christopher Key Chapple, Distinguished Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology, Director, Master of Arts in Yoga Studies, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, United States of America, spoke on the topic “Elements, Embodiment and Environment: The Yoga Connection.” While speaking, he also demonstrated simple ways to connect to Yoga and to our surroundings, thereby getting closer to understanding the Self. Yoga, an integral aspect of Indian culture, was portrayed by him in varied perspectives from multiple schools of Indic Philosophy, including the Vedic, Buddhist, and Jain. The participants, including the students of Deccan College and those who had come especially to listen to Prof. Chapple, were immersed in a world where consciousness was given primacy. The session was chaired by Prof. Prasad Joshi, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor (A) of the University and a renowned scholar of Sanskrit. He also spoke on the importance of Yogic traditions as reflected through the ancient texts.

During the same event, the inauguration of an edited volume titled “Investigating Jainism: Visual Art, Text and History” (Proceedings of the First National Annual Research Seminar on Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology held at Deccan College, Pune in August 2024), edited by Dr. Shrikant Ganvir, was done at the hands of Prof. Chapple. He appreciated the efforts of the contributing authors and the editorial team. Dr Shrikant Ganvir gave an introduction to the edited volume. The edited volume has contributions from Dr. Pawan Jain (Foreword); Dr. Kumud Kanitkar (Keynote address); Dr. Shubha Majumder (invited article); Dr. Yogesh Prabhudesai; Dr. Chaitanya Sathe and Aditya Gokhale; Mihir Kesari; Vikas Saxena; Rutuja Hampe; Rohit Chakote; Deepti Kulkarni; Abhishek Kumar, Jayatri Kaushal and Anjali Verma; Oshin Bamb; Prashant Goyal; Rahul Maurya; Shiwangi Singh; Dr. Shrikant Ganvir and Oshin Bamb. A book authored by Prof. Christopher Key Chapple titled “A Source Book of Yoga Philosophy and Practices” was also inaugurated at the hands of Prof. Prasad Joshi during the same event. Prof. Chapple gave a brief introduction to his book and expressed hope that it would be helpful for young aspiring minds.

Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Director of the International School for Jain Studies, was present as the Guest of Honour. He expressed his insights about Yoga and Jainism. He also applauded the efforts of the Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology for publishing the edited volume within the stipulated time.

Prof. Shahida Ansari, Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology, delivered the welcome address and expressed gratitude for Prof. Chapple's warm presence. Dhananjay Khandare gave the formal introduction of the guests. Prashant Goyal gave the vote of thanks. The event was attended by around seventy participants, who engaged into interesting discussions with Prof. Chapple towards the end of the session. The lecture and the inauguration were very well received by the participants.



Prof. Christopher Key Chapple delivering the lecture



Inauguration of "Investigating Jainism: Visual Art, Text and History"



Inauguration of "A Source Book of Yoga Philosophy and Practices"



Group photo after the vote of thanks