



**DECCAN COLLEGE POST-GRADUATE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY UNDER SECTION 3 OF UGC ACT 1956)

PUNE 411006

**DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY  
BHAGWAN SHITALNATH CHAIR FOR JAIN ARCHAEOLOGY**

(FUNDED BY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR JAIN STUDIES, A DIVISION OF AMAR PRERANA TRUST, PUNE AND  
VARDHAMANA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, USA)



**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
BHAGWAN SHITALNATH CHAIR FOR  
JAIN ARCHAEOLOGY**

**DECEMBER 2023-NOVEMBER 2024**

**Annual Report of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology  
December 2023 - November 2024**

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## Foreword by Prof. Prasad Joshi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (A)

**DECCAN COLLEGE**

Postgraduate and Research Institute  
Pune-411 006, India

(Declared as Deemed to be University  
under Section 3 of U.G.C. Act, 1956)



**डेक्कन कॉलेज**

पदव्युत्तर व संशोधन संस्था  
पुणे-४११ ००६, भारत

(विद्यापीठ अनुदान आयोगाच्या १९५६च्या  
अधिनियमातील प्रभाग ३ अनुसार अभिमत विद्यापीठ घोषित)

**Prof. Prasad Joshi**  
**Vice-Chancellor (A.)**

S. No. 2020/

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### Message

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

It is my great pleasure to extend this Message for the present Annual Report of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology which is working under the aegis of this University. The Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology Department of this University has already contributed to the field of Jain archaeology in past years. We remember the significant contribution made by Dr. H.D. Sankalia and Dr. S.B. Deo to this particular field. The establishment of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology is certainly fitting in the tradition of this Department. First of all, I acknowledge with gratefulness the generous financial support by International School of Jain Studies and Vardhman Charitable Foundation, USA. The establishment of the Chair at Deccan College has promoted research activities in the fields of Jain Art, Architecture, Jain Heritage Studies, Epigraphy and Archaeology. The first national Seminar in Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology, the national workshop on Jain Heritage, internship programme on Jain Art and Archaeology, to name a few, are indeed bench marks of the success of the establishment of this Chair in this University.

It is my pleasant duty to appreciate the efforts taken by the Co-ordinator Dr. Shrikant Ganvir and his colleagues Oshin Bamb, Dhananjay Khandare and others towards the successful year of the Chair. I am quite confident that such academic activities will be continued in succeeding years also.

With best regards,

(Prof. Prasad Joshi)  
Vice-Chancellor (A.)

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**Message from Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Director, International School for Jain Studies, Pune (A Division of Amar Prerana Trust)**



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December 12, 2024

To,  
**Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology,**  
Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology,  
Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute,  
Pune

**Dear Dr. Shrikant Ganvir,**

Let me extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and your esteemed team for your exceptional achievements over the past year. The dedication and hard work demonstrated by the scholars and faculty of the **Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology at Deccan College** have been truly exemplary.

The range of lectures and workshops conducted in this short span has significantly enriched the academic environment, showcasing a profound commitment to intellectual growth and scholarly excellence. These sessions have not only provided valuable learning experiences but have also fostered a culture of continuous education and curiosity among students. I would also like to acknowledge the meticulous efforts put into organizing the programs and ensuring that every logistical aspect of our programs ran smoothly. Your strategic planning and efficient coordination have been instrumental in the successful execution of our initiatives, including the appointment of new individuals to various positions.

As we look forward to the coming year, I wish the team continued success and growth in all their academic and professional endeavours. May the chair achieve even greater heights and make significant contributions to the field of Jain studies and beyond.

**With best wishes,**

**Shrinetra Pandey, PhD**  
Director  
International School for Jain Studies 'ISJS'

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\*Non-violence is the Supreme Spiritual Value (Dharma)

## Preface

**Dr. Shrikant Ganvir**

Coordinator

Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology

Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology was established in the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune in October 2023, and it is being funded by International School for Jain Studies (A Division of Amar Prerana Trust, Pune) and Vardhamana Charitable Foundation, USA. Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology has been set up at the Deccan College to promote researches in the fields of Jain Art, Architecture, Studies in Jain Heritage, Epigraphy and Archaeology, and to disseminate awareness about preservation of Jain heritage among heritage enthusiasts and commoners.

Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology undertook various academic activities such as Inter-Collegiate Quiz Competition on Jain Heritage, National Annual Research Seminar on Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology, National Workshop on Jain Heritage, Prof. S. B. Deo Memorial Annual Lecture, Prof. H. D. Sankalia Monthly Online Lecture Series and Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology.

The First National Seminar on Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology and First National Workshop on Jain Heritage were well received by academic world. The participants from Maharashtra and other states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, to name a few, participated in the seminar and workshop.

50 participants including two international participants registered for the Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology. A total number of 64 lectures were delivered by around 27 subject experts.

Besides these academic activities, an Internship Programme on Jain Art and Archaeology has also been commenced since November 2024 and they are working on preparing a bibliography of Jain Heritage, Art, Architecture, Epigraphy, History of Jainism and Archaeology of Jainism. One minor research project on Devagiri has successfully been completed by Oshin Bamb. Three research projects including one major and two minor

research projects are being undertaken by the Coordinator, Assistant Professor and Research Assistant of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology.

In future, a workshop on Jain textual traditions, and a symposium on the History of Jainism in the Deccan are also being planned under the aegis of the Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology.

We express sincere gratitude to the authorities of International School for Jain Studies, Vardhamana Charitable Foundation for their valuable guidance and constant support. We take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to Dr. Shugan Chand Jain, President, ISJS, Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Director, ISJS and Dr. Jasvant Modi, President, Vardhamana Charitable Foundation, USA for their undulating support and precious guidance.

We express sincere thanks to Prof. Prasad Joshi, Vice-Chancellor (A) of the University and Prof. Pramod Pandey, former Vice-Chancellor of the University. We express our gratitude towards the Registrar of the University. We are also thankful to Prof. Shahida Ansari, Head, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology and Prof. P. D. Sabale, Former Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology for their guidance and support. We thank the account section, academic section, administrative staff, teaching and non-teaching staff of the University for their support.

## **Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology**

The Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology, being run by the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune under the aegis of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, is a novel initiative.

Studies in Jainism, especially pertaining to the art and archaeological perspectives have been taken up a little later compared to the study of archaeology of other religious traditions in India. Jainism has thrived in India since a long time and has left numerous traces of its existence, some being continued as sacred place of worship and some being reduced to unnoticed ruins. This course on Jain Art and Archaeology is in keeping with the recent approaches of studying the past, focusing on the processes dealing with the emergence, dissemination, changes and transformations in Jainism through historical and archaeological investigations.

The important features of this course are its focus on the history and chronology of Jain monuments, monasticism, Jain architecture, iconography of the Tirthankaras and Yaksha-Yakshis and other deities, important Jain inscriptions, role and nature of patronage and various other factors which led to the dissemination of Jainism in varied parts of the country. A field trip to an important Jain heritage site may be held.

The course will also examine the changes in different aspects of ancient society in the socio-economic and religious backdrop, which played a significant role in shaping Jainism in India.

### **Objectives of the course are:**

- To offer an opportunity to students to understand the rich Jain literary and philosophical heritage of India's past and also in the present society.
- To introduce the students to the history of Jainism in India and Jain pilgrimage centres of India.
- To acquaint the students with a basic outline of history and archaeology of Jainism and its relationship to various sources of study.
- To study the art, archaeology and history of Jainism through analytical and contextual insights.
- To get acquainted with the various processes involved in the emergence and spread of Jainism in ancient and Medieval India.



- To give an idea of the various processes that have went on to impact the ancient and later day nature of Jainism.

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to understand the nature of various processes involved in the emergence and development of Jainism. The students will also get information to comprehend multiple aspects of the archaeology of religion in general, and Jainism in particular. The students will also be able to acquire knowledge of Jain art and architecture and Jain places of pilgrimage.

It is a 4-credit course and spans over 60 hours of lectures delivered by scholars on topics and regions of their expertise. The course received popularity from around the various states of India and even got international participants from countries such as China and USA. A total of 50 participants were given admission for this course, which was inaugurated at the hands of Prof. Pramod Pandey (Hon'ble Vice Chancellor) on 31st May 2024. The inaugural lecture of the course was delivered by Dr. Shugan Jain (President, International School for Jain Studies) on the topic 'Introduction to Principles of Jainism'.

The other eminent scholars who are delivering lectures for this certificate course include Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh (Former Professor, B. L. Institute of Indology and Senior Research Fellow, International School for Jain Studies, Pune), Anchit Jain (Assistant Professor, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, Delhi), Dr. Shrinetra Pandey (Director, International School for Jain Studies, Pune), Gopal Joge (Assistant Professor, Department of A.I.H.C. and Archaeology, Deccan College PGRI, Pune), Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar (Former Faculty, Department of Sanskrit and Prakrit, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune), Dr. Gauri Bedekar (Research Assistant, Firodia Institute of Philosophy, Culture and History, Pune), Dr. Renuka Porwal (Course Convener of Jain Art and Archaeology at Department of Ancient Indian Culture, Sathaye College, Mumbai), Dr. Pawan Jain (Visiting Faculty, National Museum Institute, Delhi), Dr. Viraj Shah (Associate Professor, Flame University, Pune), Dr. Shubha Majumder (Superintending Archaeologist, ASI Mumbai Circle, Mumbai), Dr. Sunil Patnaik (Director, Research, Odishan Institute of Maritime and South East Asian Studies, Bhubaneswar), Dr. R. K. Rajarajan (Director, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, School of Tamil, Indian Languages and Rural Arts, Gandhigram Rural Institute- Deemed University, Gandhigram), H. P. Nitin (Independent Researcher), Dr. E. Sivanagireddy (Chief Executive Officer, Pleach India Foundation), Dr. Ajit Kumar (Former Professor and HoD, Department of Archaeology, Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram), Dr. Neeru Misra (Former Head, Department of Museum Studies, National Museum Institute (Deemed to be University), New

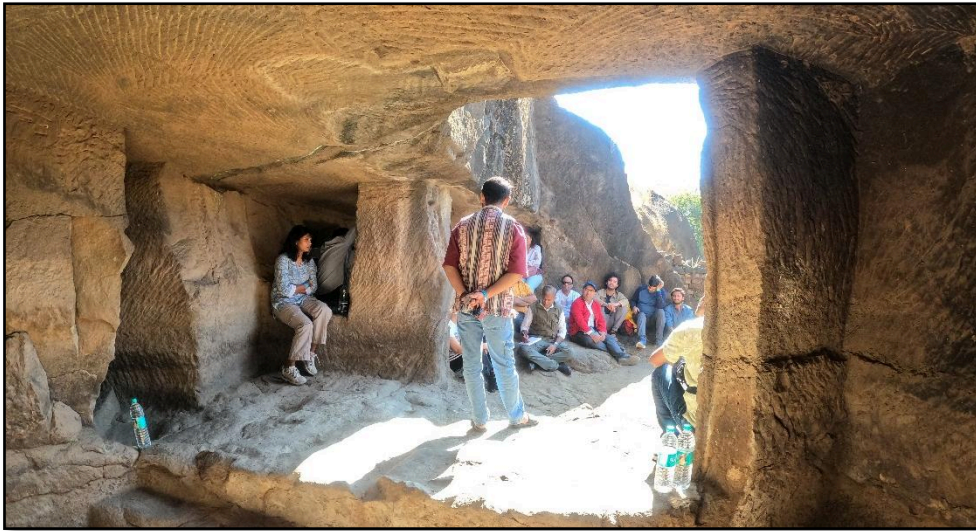
Delhi), Prof. Jayram Poduval (Professor and Head, Department of Art History and Aesthetics, Faculty of Fine Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda), Dr. Manjiri Bhalerao (Head of the Department and Associate Professor, Balmukund Lohia Centre of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune), Dr. Manisha Patil (Former Professor, Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai), Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal (Former Dean and Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, Jain University, Bengaluru), Dr. Amruta Natu (Assistant Curator, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune), Dr. Priya Thakur (Associate Professor and Coordinator, Department of Studies and Research in History and Archaeology, Tumkur University), Dr. Yashvender Dhaka (Assistant Professor of History, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University, Bareilly) and Dr. Manisha Puranik (Assistant Professor, Balmukund Lohia Centre of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune). Dr. Shrikant Ganvir (Coordinator, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology) and Oshin Bamb (Assistant Professor, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology) also delivered lectures.

The course also includes internal assignments in the form of subjective and objective assessments, write-ups, abstracts, reviews, presentations, etc. A study tour will be organised at a Jain heritage site to give practical on-site experience to the participants of this course. Towards the end of the certificate course, a final examination would also be held. The students have given their positive feedback about the course and have considered it to be very useful.

A total of 64 lectures were delivered by the scholars. The course has reached completion on 5th December 2024.

### **Study Tour of the Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology:**

A study tour of the Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology has been planned on 14th and 15th December 2024. These two days will be spent on giving on-site training to the participants of the course. The sites like Devagiri (Daulatabad) and Ellora, District Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (formerly Aurangabad), Maharashtra would be studied and understood in their context of space and time. The iconography, art, painting, architecture and other aspects of the Jain tradition would be covered in this two-day study tour.



On-site orientation at the Jain Cave, Ellora



Group photo at Devagiri (Daulatabad), where numerous remains pertaining to Jainism are reported



Participants of the study tour at Jain Cave, Ellora

## **The First National Annual Research Seminar on Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology**

The Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune organised the First National Annual Research Seminar on Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology under the aegis of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology on 31st August 2024. Around 16 research papers on various aspects of Jainism focusing on Art, Architecture, Iconography, Narratives, Recent Explorations and Textual Traditions were presented by scholars coming from different parts of the country. Around 150 participants came from Pune and other cities to attend the seminar.

Prof. Pramod Pandey, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune chaired the inaugural function and explained about the activities being undertaken by the Chair for Jain Archaeology. Eminent art historian and the keynote speaker of the seminar, Prof. Kumud Kanitkar spoke on the Jain Architectural and Sculptural Remains in Maharashtra and expressed a strong need for undertaking studies related to Jain Art, Architecture, and Archaeology. She, during her lecture, encouraged young scholars to go deeper into every minute aspect for getting the best research outcome. Guest of Honour, Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Director of the International School for Jain Studies (a division of Amar Prerana Trust, Pune), highlighted the importance of such academic activities and conveyed his wishes for the auspicious Paryushan Parv. Prof. P. D. Sabale gave the welcome address and highlighted the importance of micro-level studies in the field of religious history and archaeology. Dr. Shrikant Ganvir, Coordinator of the Seminar and of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, gave the introductory speech.

Four technical sessions with broad academic themes were organised. The first session titled “Reinvestigating the Jain Art and Iconography” was chaired by Dr. Shubha Majumder, Superintending Archaeologist, Mumbai Circle, Archaeological Survey of India. Four research scholars presented their research papers in this session- Oshin Bamb presented on ‘Created Narratives: Case study of Jain images from Khamtalav and Kumbhali, District Bhandara, Maharashtra’; Rahul Maurya presented on ‘Visual Narratives and Sculptures of Jain Goddesses at Gandharvpuri (Dewas, Madhya Pradesh): An Iconographic Study’; Rutuja Hampe presented on ‘A Study of Narrative Panels of Jabareśvara Temple, Phaltan, District Satara, Maharashtra’; Stuti Jain presented on ‘Śāntinātha Basadi at Jinanāthapura: An Iconographic study’.

The second technical session titled “Exploring the Jain Temple Architecture” was chaired by Dr. Shrikant Pradhan, Visiting Faculty at Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, and four research scholars presented their papers- Abhishek Kumar, Anjali Verma and Jayatri Koushal presented a joint paper on ‘Jainism in Outer Himalaya: A Case Study of Jain Temples of District Kangra’; Anchit Jain presented on ‘Monastic Representations in Jain temple Architecture’; Deepti Kulkarni presented on ‘Ādināth Basadi at Khidrapur, District Kolhapur, Maharashtra: An Architectural and Iconographic Study’; Nikita Singh presented on ‘A Reappraisal of Some Forgotten Jaina Temple Sites of Purulia District, West Bengal: An Art and Archaeological Perspective’.

The third technical session was chaired by Dr. Shrikant Pradhan, which was titled “Recent Researches in Material Culture of Jainism”. In this session, four researchers presented their papers- Prashant Goyal presented on ‘Jain Remains at Idor Village: An Archaeological Exploration in Ashoknagar District, Madhya Pradesh’; Chaitanya Sathe and Aditya Gokhale presented a joint paper on ‘Ghaṇṭākarna in Jainism: The Guardian Deity’; Yogesh Prabhudesai presented on ‘Dynamics of co-existence between Jainism and Śaivism during early medieval period in the Kolhapur Śilāhāra presidency’; Shiwangi Singh presented on ‘Reimagining Indian ‘*karni-bharni*’ paintings from the Perspective of Jain Philosophy’.

The last session was titled “Interpreting the Jain Text and Narratives” and it was chaired by Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar, Former Faculty, Department of Sanskrit and Prakrit, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. Four researchers presented their papers in this session on the corresponding theme of the session- Rupesh Madkar presented on ‘Politics of Acquisition: Brahmartaisation of Jain Cultural Space’; Mihir Keshari presented on ‘Understanding the rise of Jainism in Early-Medieval Western India: A socio-historical study of the text *Kuvalaya-mālā*’; Rohit Chakote presented on ‘Legacy of Pethaḍa: Contributions to Jain Art, Architecture and Literature’; Vikas Saxena presented on ‘Mythological and Cultural significance of Digambara Jain sites in Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh’.

After every research paper presentation, an active questions and answers session was kept, which helped the audience to interact with scholars regarding their topics of interest. This brought in different perspectives and opened further scope regarding the topics.

Scholars and students of colleges and universities from states like Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Rajasthan participated in the seminar.

The valedictory function was graced by Prof. Prasad Joshi, Honorable Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute. Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, Former Professor at the B. L. Institute of Indology and Senior Research Associate at the International School for Jain Studies, spoke as the guest of honour, where he appreciated the efforts put in by the presenters for bringing original research to the floor. Prof. Shahida Ansari, Head, Department of AIHC and Archaeology, and convenor of the seminar, expressed her appreciation for the new generation's zeal for enquiring about the past. Gopal Joge presented the academic report of the seminar and highlighted the key outcomes of the research papers that were presented. Dr. Shrikant Ganvir presented a vote of thanks and applauded the efforts put in by the advisory, organising, and volunteering committees for the successful organisation of this seminar. An abstract book and a memento with an inscription from Pale Jain Cave were given to all participants as souvenirs. Oshin Bamb did the comparing for the programme. The Seminar was well received by the audience and was thus successful in disseminating knowledge on Jain Studies to the academicians as well as the commoners.



Inaugural function of the First National Annual Research Seminar



Prof. Pramod Pandey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, delivering the chairperson's remarks



Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Director ISJS, sharing his thoughts on the occasion



Prof. Kumud Kanitkar delivering the key-note address



Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar giving her remarks on the papers presented



Dr. Shrikant Pradhan giving his remarks on the papers presented



Dr. Shubha Majumder giving his remarks on the papers presented



Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh sharing his thoughts at the valedictory ceremony



Participants of the First National Annual Research Seminar





## **The First National Workshop on Jain Heritage: Jain Visual Art**

The First National Workshop on Jain Heritage: Jain Visual Art was organised by the Department of AIHC and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune under the aegis of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology on 8th and 9th November 2024. It was conducted by Oshin Bamb, Assistant Professor of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology. The Inaugural Ceremony was graced by Prof. Prasad Joshi, Honorable Vice-Chancellor (A) of the University. Participants from varied age groups, cultural and professional backgrounds participated in the National Workshop- students, architects, scholars, travel enthusiasts, lay followers, etc. Various modules like the Introduction to Jain Rituals, Iconography, Art, Architecture, Paintings, etc. were taught. Each module was followed by an equally interesting discussion amongst the participants and a formal question and answer round between the participants and the speaker. Hands-on training was provided during the study visit to Agam Mandir Tirth, Katraj Jain Temple, Pune on 9th November 2024 and by showing the architectural fragments of Jain Temple from Devagiri, now on display at Archaeology Museum, Department of AIHC and Archaeology, Deccan College. Activities like quiz solving, sketching and painting a Tirthankara, describing a Jain image, understanding the perspective of an artist, of a lay follower and a researcher, etc. were also held during the two-day National Workshop. The participants expressed their gratitude and appreciation for their learnings in the two days of the workshop during the Valedictory Ceremony. Certificate of participation were given at the hands of Dr. Shrikant Ganvir, Coordinator of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, during the Valedictory Ceremony on 9th November 2024.



Prof. Prasad Joshi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (A), speaking at the Inaugural Ceremony of the First National Workshop on Jain Heritage



Mr. Oshin Bamb delivering the lectures during the workshop



Participants engaged in activities held during the workshop



Study visit at Agam Mandir Tirth, Katraj Jain Temple, Pune as a part of workshop



Participants sharing their experiences at the valedictory ceremony



Group photograph of the participants of the workshop

## **Prof. H. D. Sankalia Monthly Lecture Series on Jain Heritage**

It was thought that a Monthly Lecture Series for Jain Heritage should be started as an activity of 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 which will be held in online mode so that many more enthusiasts from all over the globe who are interested in the domain of Jain Heritages should get benefitted. These lectures by respective scholars would surely enrich the students and other interested people with a detailed knowledge of varied subjects coming under the domain of Jain Studies.

Prof. H. D. Sankalia, the founder of the Department of Archaeology at Deccan College, played seminal role in establishing the early presence of Jainism in the Western Deccan through his articles. His numerous research publications, lectures and his academic career inspires many future researchers. To commemorate his contribution to academia and to carry forward his legacy, it was decided that this Monthly Lecture Series should be named after him and this would be known as ‘Prof. H. D. Sankalia Monthly Lecture Series on Jain Heritage.’

These lectures would be organised in online mode on the last Wednesday of every month. The First Prof. H. D. Sankalia Monthly Lecture Series on Jain Heritage was held on 30th September 2024. The lecture was delivered by Oshin Bamb (Assistant Professor, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology) on the topic ‘Serenity in Stone: Iconography, Architecture and Landscape at Muktagiri Siddha Kshetra’. Dr. Shrikant Ganvir (Coordinator, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology) gave the introduction of the activities of the Chair and also about the Monthly Lecture Series. The lecture was attended by hundred participants from around the world, including senior scholars, researchers, students, enthusiasts and laity. Jainism in Vidarbha, especially of the medieval period, has been through a lot of continuity and transformations, in terms of rituals, sacred space, monastic order, and even architecture. The landscape of the region was well explored and utilised to best suit the requirements for claiming the sacred nature for such tirthas. Muktagiri, an important tirthakshetra, mentioned in the lines of Nirvanakanda, grew on to become a very famous pilgrimage center not just for Vidarbha, but for Jains coming from all parts of the country. The landscape and scenic beauty were very well used to make the best place for religious and spiritual endeavors. The session was followed by interesting question and answer session. The doubts of the participants were solved with examples and relevant evidence.

Lecture 2 of this series was delivered by Dr. Yogesh Prabhudesai (Art Historian, Kolhapur) on the topic ‘Review of Jainism in the Early Medieval Kolhapur’ on 30th October 2024 where he spoke about art, architecture, inter-community dialogues, epigraphic sources for study of Jainism in Kolhapur and rituals of the then people. An interesting question-and-answer round followed his talk. Around seventy participants joined this lecture.

Lecture 3 of this series was delivered by Dr. Shubha Majumder (Superintending Archaeologist, Mumbai Circle, Archaeological Survey of India) on the topic ‘Exploring ‘Lost’ Jain Temple Site and ‘Stray’ Sculptures of Chhotanagpur Plateau’ on 27th November 2024. The lecture covered various lesser-known sites of the region of Chhotanagpur Plateau, where Jainism was a thriving religion in the past but the vestiges of Jainism lay scattered throughout the region. Approximately eighty participants had joined this online lecture. The audience got to understand the specific artistic style prevalent in the region with special reference to Jainism.



Speakers of Prof. H. D. Sankalia Monthly Lecture Series on Jain Heritage  
(from left: Mr. Oshin Bamb, Dr. Yogesh Prabhudesai and Dr. Shubha Majumder)

## **Prof. S. B. Deo Annual Memorial Lecture on Jain Studies**

The Inaugural Prof. S. B. Deo Annual Memorial Lecture on Jain Studies as an activity of 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 was organised on 1st October 2024 from 12 pm to 2 pm at the Prof. H. D. Sankalia Hall.

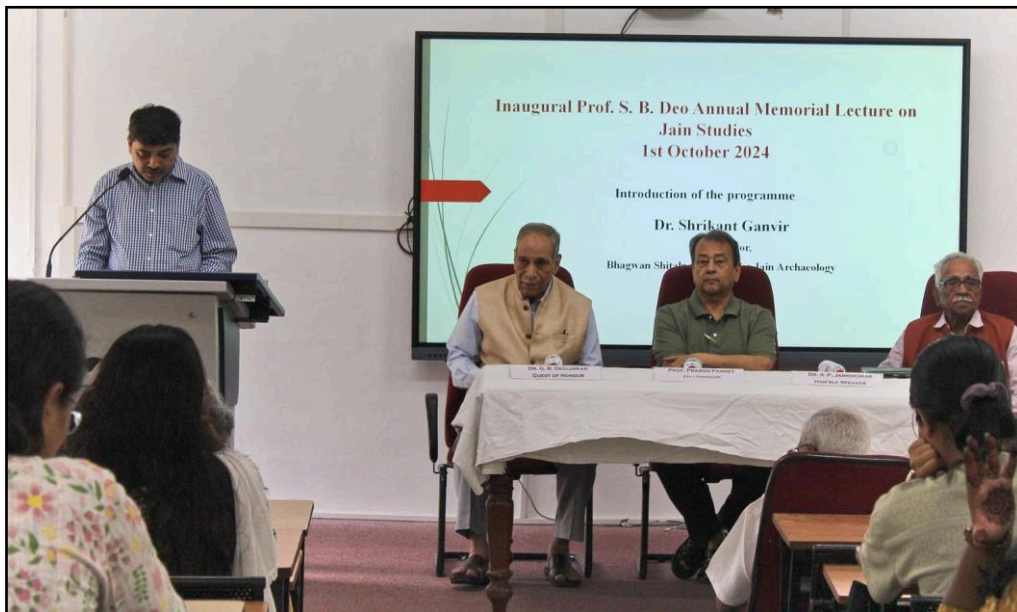
Prof. S. B. Deo's monumental work titled 'History of Jaina Monachism from Inscriptions and Literature' brought in a new impetus to Historical and Archaeological Studies related to Jainism. This work brought about a corroboration of the textual data of Jain literature and the inscripational evidence from around the corners of the country. He was the Director of Deccan College from 1978 to 1985. His numerous research publications, lectures and his academic career inspire many future researchers. To commemorate his contribution to academia, especially to Jain Studies, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology thought of naming this annual lecture after him. The lecture was scheduled on 1st October 2024 on the occasion of the death Anniversary of Prof. S. B. Deo.

Dr. Shrikant Ganvir (Coordinator, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology) gave the introduction of the programme. Prof. Shahida Ansari (Head, Department of AIHC and Archaeology) delivered the welcome address. Prof. Pramod Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. A. P. Jamkhedkar (Hon'ble Speaker), Dr. G. B. Deglurkar (Hon'ble Guest of Honour), Prof. Shahida Ansari (Head, Department of AIHC and Archaeology), Dr. Shrikant Ganvir (Coordinator of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology) joined hands and offered flower garland to the photograph of late Prof. S. B. Deo.

The lecture on topic 'Haribhadrasurī: Contribution to Jain Yoga' was delivered by Dr. A. P. Jamkhedkar, Hon'ble Chancellor, Sir J. J. School of Art, Architecture and Design (Deemed to be University under De-Novo Category) and Former Chancellor, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune. After giving an idea of what Yoga really encompasses in Vedic, Post-Vedic, Jain and Buddhist contexts, he briefly explained how the scholarly works of Haribhadrasurī proved to be an important contribution in the field of Yoga and philosophy. The Guest of Honour, Dr. G. B. Deglurkar, Hon'ble former President, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune, shared his memories about Prof. S. B. Deo. He also expressed the importance of organisation of such lectures on Jain Studies and suggested that many more such lectures

should be organised for the benefit of the interested people. Both these scholars Dr. Jamkhedkar and Dr. Deglurkar were the students of Prof. S. B. Deo, which is why the programme was very special for everyone. Prof. Pramod Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, gave the presidential speech where he highlighted the importance of commemorating great scholars and of passing down the legacy to the upcoming generations. Prof. K. Paddayya, Emeritus Professor, was also present at the occasion. The comparing was done by Oshin Bamb (Assistant Professor, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology) while the formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dhananjay Khandare (Research Assistant, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology).

The lecture was attended by around sixty people coming from around the city, including scholars, teachers, students, enthusiasts and others. After the official completion of the lecture, the audience engaged in an informal question and answer session and discussion session. This lecture was a true tribute to the memories and academic works of a scholar like Prof. S. B. Deo, whose contributions to Archaeology in general and Jain Studies in particular, have benefitted the academia a lot.



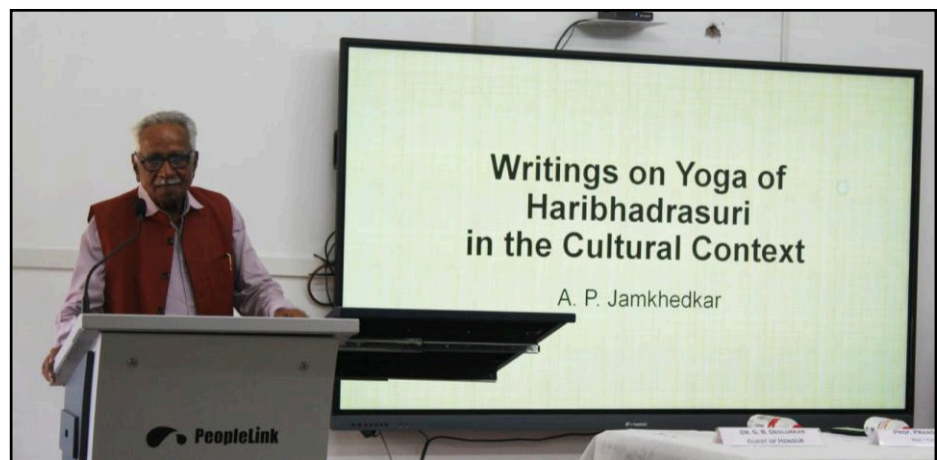
Dr. Shrikant Ganvir delivering the welcome address during the Inaugural Ceremony of Prof. S. B. Deo Annual Memorial Lecture on Jain Studies



Prof. Pramod Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, welcoming Dr. A. P. Jamkhedkar and Dr. G. B. Deglurkar



Prof. Shahida Ansari, Head, Dept. of AIHC and Archaeology, delivering the welcome address at the Inaugural Ceremony of Prof. S. B. Deo Annual Memorial Lecture on Jain Studies

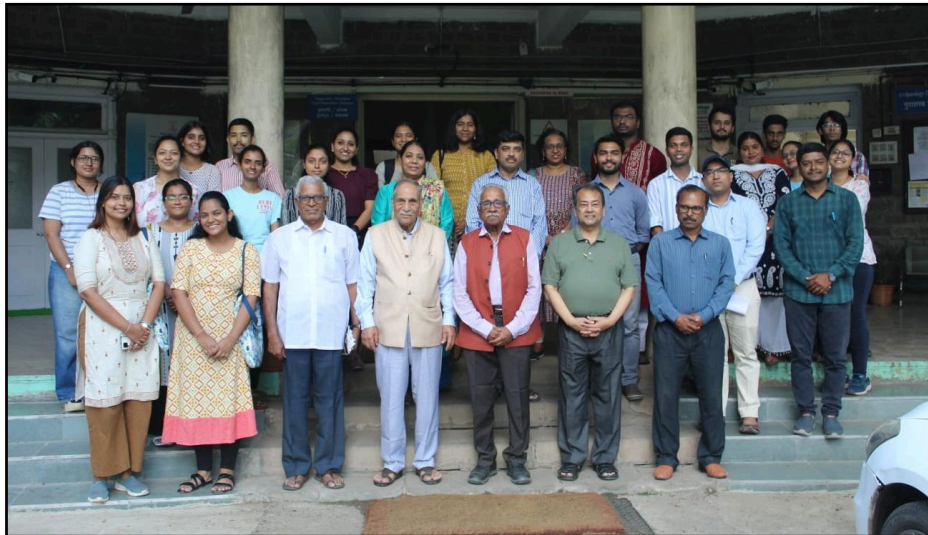


Dr. A. P. Jamkhedkar delivering the Annual Lecture on the topic 'Writings on Yoga of Haribhadrasuri in the Cultural Context'.





Dr. G. B. Deglurkar sharing his ideas during Prof. S. B. Deo Annual Memorial Lecture on Jain Studies



Group photograph of the participants of Prof. S. B. Deo Annual Memorial Lecture on Jain Studies

## **Special Lecture on the occasion of World Heritage Week and 2550th Nirvana Mahotsava of Bhagwan Mahavir**

A special lecture on the occasion of World Heritage Week and 2550th Nirvana Mahotsava Year of Bhagwan Mahavir on 26th November 2024 was organised. The lecture was delivered online by Mr. Anchit Jain, Assistant Professor (Guest), Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, New Delhi on the topic ‘The Jain Temples of Osian: A Confluence of Art, Devotion and Dedication.’ The talk was attended by around seventy participants. The speaker narrated stories of the foundation of Upakeshnagar (old name of Osian), the art, architecture, narrative panels and iconography with special reference to Jainism at Osian. The lecture focused on various narratives behind the establishment of the town of Osian, its art, architecture, rituals and their impact on the contemporary society. The lecture was followed by an interesting question and answer session.



Speaker of the Special Lecture: Mr. Anchit Jain

## **Research Projects of the Chair**

Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology is keen on undertaking various research projects for spreading awareness about the vestiges of Jainism scattered across the country. The research projects would essentially focus on surveying, exploring, documenting, analysing the data, inference drawing and publishing the findings for the benefit of the academia and the commoners. Currently, one major research project and two minor research projects are in progress, while one minor research project has been completed. The brief details of these major and minor research projects are as follows:

### **Ongoing Major Research Project**

**Archaeological Study of Jainism in Kolhapur and its Vicinity (c. 9th to 14th century CE)**

**Name of the principal investigator: Dr. Shrikant Ganvir**

**Names of coinvestigators: Oshin Bamb, Dhananjay Khandare**

The Kolhapur district, located southwest of Maharashtra, has a rich history and culture of Jainism. The area became an important Jain centre from the 9th to the 12th century CE. During this period, Kolhapur was known as Kshullakapur. The place got the patronage of the Shilahara rulers and their ministers, which helped it to flourish as an important Jain centre. In his time several Jain temples were constructed, which were marvels of architecture of those times. These temples were prime worship places and served as a learning and cultural exchange centres for scholars, devotees and the monastic community from various regions. These Jain temples in Kolhapur are great examples of architectural heritage characterised by intricate carvings, iconography, and the use of locally sourced materials that reflect the craftsmanship and artistic excellence of the time. Most of these temples are still worshipped by the Jain community today and are of great interest to historians and archaeologists studying the region's rich cultural past. The legacy of the Shilahara dynasty's patronage, the community patronage and the region's significance as a centre of Jain religious and cultural activities is a testament to the history of Jainism in Kolhapur. This historical narrative not only enriches our understanding of Jainism's spread in Maharashtra but also highlights the architectural and cultural contributions of the Jain community in Kolhapur. An approximate number of twenty-four temples, sites with Jain remains, scattered archaeological material related to Jainism of this region would be surveyed and documented.

This study will explore the role of geography and other socio-economic factors in developing Jain religious centres and the network of satellite monastic centres in the vicinity of Kolhapur as a central site. This includes the documentation of Jain temples and their topographical and archaeological settings, as well as the documentation of habitational settlements wherever necessary, art and architecture and other archaeological remains at Kolhapur and its surrounding region pertaining to Jainism.

Documenting the archaeological remains of Jainism of Kolhapur and its vicinity is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it helps preserve the rich historical and cultural heritage site, ensuring that future generations can appreciate and learn from these ancient structures. Detailed documentation, including architectural plans, inscriptions, and iconography, provides valuable data for researchers and historians, aiding the study of Jainism and medieval Indian history as a whole. Additionally, thorough documentation can assist in the conservation and restoration efforts, helping to protect these temples from natural decay and human-induced damage. By recording the current state of the temples, scholars can track changes over time and implement strategies to mitigate further deterioration. Lastly, such documentation raises awareness about the significance of the Jain archaeological remains, temples, images and others, potentially attracting more support for their preservation and promoting heritage awareness in the region.

The aims of this project:

1. To explore the development and formation of Jain temples in Kolhapur and its vicinity, identifying the elements that constitute their archaeological landscape.
2. To comprehensively document the landscape of Jain archaeological remains in Kolhapur and its vicinity, including detailed measurements of structural remains.
3. To analyse religious and architectural spaces within the regional landscape, linking them to a broader social context.
4. To investigate the influence of social, religious, political and economic factors on the formation of Jain sacred spaces in Kolhapur and its vicinity.
5. To understand the continuity and transformations in Jain religious spaces in context of Kolhapur and its vicinity.

Historical records, inscriptions, and other primary sources will be examined to trace the history and development of archaeological records related to Jainism in Kolhapur and its vicinity. Published and unpublished data on early Jainism, Kolhapur Jain Temples, and surrounding archaeological sites will be reviewed and analysed. Archaeological, architectural,

and structural remains of temples will be documented (field notes, photography, measurements, and digital illustrations, ground plans and elevations), using advanced instruments. High-quality images and videos will be captured to create a visual record for future reference. Additionally, a comparative stylistic study of these art, architectural remains would be done, followed by their description and analysis. Inferences would be drawn thereon.

### **Completed Minor Research Project**

#### **A Forgotten Jain Religious Centre of Devagiri: Investigating Coexistence of the Two Sects**

(January 2024 to December 2024)

##### **Name of the investigator: Oshin Bamb**

Devagiri or Daulatabad, as it is known popularly today, is a famous destination for people having interest in medieval fort architecture, defence mechanism, fort layout and it overall caters to the minds of the academicians of medieval history as well as to the eyes of the commoner who visits the fort as a tourist. It is located at a distance of 17 km from the district headquarters of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (earlier Aurangabad). Although the fort is well known to have been the capital of Yādavas, due to which the dynasty is called the Yādavas or Seuṇas of Devagiri, the actual archaeological or architectural ramparts belonging to that period are now lost to the effects of time. During the Yādava period, it witnessed a prosperity in all regards, so much so that, getting attracted to this prosperous site, Allāuddin Khilji's army came and took away enormous booty back with them, thereby humbling the Yādavas. During the same time, many temples were destroyed. The place rose to prominence of being the capital of the then Sultanate during Tughlaq rule for a brief period of time around 1328 CE. It was during the Tughlaq rule that the Jāmi Mosque was constructed from the architectural remnants of the temples. In the subsequent periods, the fort was added with multiple fortifications, defences, bastions, moats, gates and other elements for which it is known today and passed through the hands of Bahāmanīs, Nizāmshāhīs, Mughals, Marāṭhās and Asafjāhīs till 1948 when it was added to the dominion of the Republic of India.

Having been through multiple levels of occupation, Devagiri, literally meaning, the abode of Gods, in the initial period, was known as a religious centre for the Jain and Brahmanical folds. Based on the archaeological methodology implemented by the excavators at the site, where they calculated the number of beams, pillars and other elements now present at the mosque and other places, there were around twelve to fourteen temples situated around

water bodies such as *kunḍas* or wells. This religious nature of the place may have existed since the 10th-11th century CE, i.e., even before the shifting of Yādava capital here. Due to a strong identity as a religious centre for the aforementioned two faiths, Devagiri grew rapidly as a religious market town. With the coming of large number of pilgrims and the religious economy that bloomed due to them, prosperity grew in various aspects. Credits are also to be given to the strategic position which it enjoyed on the route connecting the Northern parts of India with the Deccan. In the year 1196 CE, it became the capital of the Yādavas during the reign of Bhillama V, who is also credited to have established the city as per Hemādri, the minister of Rāmacandra Yādava. After being recognized as the capital city, the earlier temples were repaired and new ones were built. During the 11th and the 12th centuries CE, many caves were also excavated around the hill. When these temples were destroyed during the raid by the army of Allāuddin Khilji, the place may have lost its religious sanctity amongst the followers. Devagiri was known as *Quwwat-ul-Islam* or the centre of Islam, when the Jāmi Mosque was constructed. When the capital was shifted here from Delhi, it was renamed as Daulatabad, literally meaning the Abode of Prosperity. From being wrested by competing powers in later period, to being established as Bhārata Māta Temple after Independence, Devagiri has witnessed many transformations, not just in architecture or political suzerainty or grandeur but also in terms of its very nature and context.

The site of Devagiri (Daulatabad) is known as a famous medieval fort and that identity has got deeply embedded in the public perception. The nature of the site as a defence structure is popularly known but its pre-existing nature as a sacred site is yet to be re-established in the academia as well as in the public memory. While looking at the site through the context of its sacred and religious nature and the various changes that have happened, it is also important to minutely analyse the multi-valent religious nature of the site. When more than one religious and sectarian presence is attested at the site, distinct ritual spaces and practices may have existed. Addressing this sectarian co-existence (with respect to the two sects of Jainism) and re-establishing the identity of the present fort as a previously existing sacred space appears to be important and has not been dealt as such in previous researches.

Aims of the project:

1. To analyse the available textual and archaeological data at Devagiri to understand the religious and sacred nature (with special reference to Jainism) of the site.

2. To delve in to study of the co-existence of the two Jain sects and the various dynamics that the site has evidenced in this regard through a thorough iconographical documentation of the archaeological record left behind.
3. To build a small history of the site of Devagiri with special reference to Jainism with the help of archaeological and historiographical corroboration.

With regards to the methodology implemented for this project, a review of some primary texts mentioning Devagiri has been done along with reading of the research works penned by various scholars with respect to the site of Devagiri or Daulatabad. A thorough documentation of the Jain images has been done and thereafter some correlation of the textual references with the archaeological materials has been attempted to bring out the importance of the site through the perspective of Jainism.

### **Ongoing Minor Research Projects**

#### **Minor Research Project 1**

#### **Serenity in Stone: Unveiling the Sacred Architecture and Iconography of Jain Temples at Muktagiri**

**Name of the investigator: Oshin Bamb**

Jainism in Vidarbha, especially of the medieval period, has been through a lot of continuity and transformations, in terms of rituals, sacred space, monastic order and even the architecture. The rise of pilgrimage centres, which the people of Vidarbha can fulfill their religious needs from, is yet another important feature. The landscape of the region was well explored and utilized to best suit the requirements for claiming the sacred nature for such tirthas. Muktagiri, an important *tīrthakṣetra*, mentioned in the lines of *Nirvāṇakāṇḍa*, grew on to become a very famous pilgrimage centre not just for Vidarbha, but for Jains coming from all parts of the country. The landscape and scenic beauty were very well used to make the best place for religious and spiritual endeavors. This project would describe the unique partially rock-cut and partially structural cave-temples and fully structural temples at Muktagiri along with the iconographic study of the images present here. Such architectural activities at the site were still well-thought and planned before execution, and this has been further substantiated by the description and study of these religious edifices in this project by the present investigator.

The picturesque location of these group of hill-temples at Muktagiri, in the midst of a dense forest covering the Satpuda mountain ranges, inlaid by the flow of various pristine

waterfalls, streams and rivulets, was chosen by the Jain followers for the creation of *Bāvana Jinālaya* i.e., a group of 52 Jain temples. Variety of flora and fauna adorn the natural landscape of this place, which got more famous for its sacred and cultural importance amongst the followers of Jainism, especially in the medieval period.

The aims of the project:

1. To study the development of Muktagiri as a sacred pilgrimage centre for the Jains.
2. To study the iconography and architecture at the Jain temples of Muktagiri.
3. To do photographic and literary documentation of the archaeological material present at the site.
4. To document and understand the narratives, rituals and other beliefs associated with the site.
5. To make site plan and ground plan of selected temples from Muktagiri.

Primary and secondary sources would be referred to get an idea of the previous studies undertaken with respect to the site. Data collection would be done through a thorough documentation of the images, temples and other antiquities at the site. For a holistic understanding, site plan and ground plans of selected individual temples would also be made. The collected data would be analysed to draw inferences and conclusions.

## **Minor Research Project 2**

### **An Archaeological Exploration and Documentation of Anjaneri Jain Temples and Caves**

**Name of the investigator: Dhananjay Khandare**

The Anjaneri Jain Temple Complex, located near Nashik in Maharashtra, India, is an important archaeological site from the 12th century CE. This complex is famous for its ancient Jain caves and temples, which showcase the area's rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Jainism. It features structural and intricately carved cave temples, demonstrating the architectural skill and religious commitment of that time.

From an archaeological viewpoint, the Anjaneri Jain Temple Complex provides valuable insights into the growth of Jainism in Maharashtra. The temples are embellished with finely carved sculptures of *Jinas*, *Yakṣiṇī* Ambikā, and *Cakreśvari*, reflecting the artistic talent of the period. The site also indicates the support of Jainism by various dynasties, such as the *Rāṣṭrakūṭas*, *Yādavas*, and *Śīlāhāras*, who played a role in building and maintaining these



sacred structures. The Anjaneri site is significant for its religious and cultural elements but also enhances the understanding of medieval Indian architecture and iconography of Jainism.

This study will explore the role of geography and other environmental factors in the development of Jain religious centres and, also the network of satellite monastic centres in the vicinity of Anjaneri as a central site. This includes the documentation of Jain temples and caves and their topographical and archaeological settings, and also the documentation of habitational settlements, art and architecture, irrigation works, and other archaeological remains at the Anjaneri archaeological site and its surrounding region.

The aims of the project:

1. To understand the development of Jain temples and caves at Anjaneri, how they form, and what elements form an archaeological landscape.
2. To document the entire landscape of Jain temples and caves at Anjaneri, it includes measurements of structural remains.
3. To study religious and other architectural spaces within a regional landscape of meaning and interaction to link them within a larger social context.
4. To examine the role of landscape and environment in the formation of Jain temples and caves at Anjaneri.
5. To conduct the catchment analysis of the Jain temples and caves at Anjaneri.

Examining historical records, inscriptions, and other primary sources to trace the temple's history and development; reading, reviewing, and analysing published and unpublished data on early Jainism, Anjaneri Jain Temples, Caves, and surrounding archaeological sites; documentation (field notes, photography, measurements, digital illustrations) of archaeological, architectural, and structural remains of the Anjaneri Temple complex and other temples and caves located in its vicinity would be done. The documentation will be carried out by using advanced instruments. High-quality images and videos of the temple would be taken to create a visual record for future reference. A comparative study of the architectural models and archaeological remains of adjoining regions with important Jain sites in the study area will be carried out to derive conclusive statements.

## **Internship Programme in Jain Art and Archaeology**

Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology is inclined towards creating awareness and academic enthusiasm regarding Jain Heritage, Art, History and Archaeology. One of its aims is to provide a forum for post-graduate and research level training programmes, workshops, conferences, symposiums, seminars in the fields of Archaeology of Jainism, Jain Art and Architecture, etc. for generating interest about Jain Studies amongst the young scholars. Keeping this in mind, an internship programme is being organised to train students in the field of Jain Art and Archaeology and thereby develop a short-term project. The objectives of this internship programme are- to provide exposure and training to young students in the field of researches in Jain Studies; to impart experience in data collection, referencing, research writing; to develop a short-term project on a topic related to Jain Studies.

A total of two interns have been selected for this programme out of the fourteen applications that were received. The internship is being offered in offline mode and the location of workspace is Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune. It is a full-time internship with a duration of about 3 months. It has commenced from the month of November 2024 and will go on till the month of January 2025. The nature of work in this internship includes data collection, referencing, research writing, developing a short-term project and any other academic work associated with Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology. These interns would get training from Dr. Shrikant Ganvir (Coordinator of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology), Oshin Bamb (Assistant Professor, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology) and Dhananjay Khandare (Research Assistant, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology).

The team of interns, under the guidance of aforementioned people, would work on bringing out a bibliographic compilation of all important academic writings related to Jain Art, Architecture, History and Archaeology. For this bibliographic work, the library of Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune, other important libraries in the city, online repositories, open access journals, research articles, papers, proceedings, excavation reports, dissertations, theses, books, monographs, edited volumes, online databases and other sources would be utilised. This extensive bibliography will be extremely useful to all researchers and students of Jain Studies where they will get

references to almost all the data that they need at one place. The selected interns who are dedicatedly working for this project are Smriti Kushwaha and Deepti Kulkarni.

The interns would also submit a brief report towards the end of their internship about their learning experience. The attendance record and the details of work supervision would be maintained. A certificate regarding successful completion of the internship shall be issued at the end of the internship programme.



Interns Deepti Kulkarni and Smriti Kushwaha and Research Fellow Prashant Goyal engaged in library work of the Bibliography Project

## **The First Inter-Collegiate Quiz Competition on Jain Art, Architecture, Heritage and History**

The Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune under the aegis of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, organised the First Inter-Collegiate Quiz Competition on Jain Art, Architecture, Heritage and History to commemorate the 2623<sup>rd</sup> *Janma Kalyāṇaka* of Bhagwāna Mahāvīra and the World Heritage Week on 27th April, 2024 at Prof. S. M. Katre Hall (New Convocation Hall) Department of AIHC and Archaeology, Deccan College PGRI, Pune.

The quiz focused upon the themes of art, architecture, heritage and history pertaining to Jainism. It was in the form of 50 multiple-choice questions, which were to be solved in a time limit of an hour. The competition was open to all Junior College, Under-Graduate, Post-Graduate, PhD and any other students or even laypeople (up to age of 40 years) who are interested in the domain of Jain Studies. A total of 130 participants registered through the link for online registration. These participants were representing universities, colleges and institutes like Deccan College PGRI, Pune; Fergusson College, Pune; Garware College, Pune; Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati; S. A. Mission School; Bharti Vidyapeeth College of Architecture, Pune; St. Mira Girl's College, Pune; Chintamanrao College of Commerce, Sangli; Vardhman Education and Research Centre, VIIT College; TMU, Moradabad; Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur; Rajmata Jijau Art, Commerce and Science College Landewadi, Bhosari; History Department, Modern College, Shivajinagar, Pune; Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar; Patna University; IGNTU, Amarkantak; New Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ahmednagar; Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; YCMOU, Nashik; Vishvakarma University, Pune; Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, VSR Government Degree and PG College, Movva; Institute of Archaeology, Delhi; TSWRDC (W), Nizamabad; Mahatma Phule Mahavidyalaya, Pimpri, Pune; Kids Gurukul International School; S. D. College Barnala, Punjab; University of Delhi; K. J. Somaiya College, Mumbai; Kavikulguru Kalidas University, Ramtek; Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya, Pune; University of Kashmir; Department of History L. N. M. U., Darbhanga; Jain Viswa Bharti, Ladnun; Shri Nemichand Jain Brahmacharyashram, Nashik; CMP Degree College, Prayagaraj, Uttar Pradesh; Walchand Institute of Technology, Solapur; Shivaji University, Kolhapur; PSGR Krishnammal College for Women; R. C. Patel Arts, Commerce

and Science College, Shirpur; Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida; Visva Bharati; Bhogawati Mahavidyalaya; Kurukali; Department of History, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune; International School for Jain Studies, Pune; Shrut Bhavan Research Centre, Pune; R.J.S.P.M ACS College, Landewadi, Bhosari, Pune.

Around seventy participants actually showed up on the day of the competition. Prize and certificate distribution function was held on the same day from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Prof. Prasad Joshi (Hon'ble Pro-Vice-Chancellor) and Prof. Shahida Ansari (Head, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology) were present at the prize distribution ceremony. The first rank of the competition was secured by Aman Kumar, the second rank by Suhas Zambre and the third rank by Harleen Makkar and Amol Pawar. Certificate of participation were given to all the participants of the Inter Collegiate Quiz.

Comparing and vote of thanks for the programme was done by Oshin Bamb (Research Fellow, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology). The quiz was well received by the participants who acknowledged that there is a lot more to be explored in the field of Jain Studies and Jain Heritages.



Prof. Prasad Joshi, Prof. Shahida Ansari and Dr. Shrikant Ganvir giving the first prize to Mr. Aman Kumar during the Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Inter-Collegiate Quiz Competition on Jain Art, Architecture, Heritage and History

## **Activities by Oshin Bamb**

**Research Fellow: 2/12/2024 to 24/08/2024**

**Assistant Professor: 26/08/2024 to till date**

### **Activities as Research Fellow**

The Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology has provided a Research Fellowship from the funds given by International School for Jain Studies, a division of Amar Prerna Trust, Pune. The fellowship is awarded to a candidate who has registered for the doctoral programme at Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune and working on a topic related to Jain Art, Architecture, Archaeology and similar things. After the due process, Oshin Bamb was selected as the Research Fellow of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology and he assumed his duties from 2nd December 2023 and worked till 24th August 2024.

Below is a list of activities done by him during his tenure as the Research Fellow:

#### Certificate Courses:

Completed Certificate Course in Research and Publication Ethics in O Grade (2024)

Completed Certificate Course in Research Methodology in O Grade (2024)

Ongoing Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology (2024)

#### Workshops attended:

Workshop on Ancient Bead Making organised by Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute in collaboration with Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra. (2024)

#### Teaching Experience:

Visiting Faculty at Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University for MA Pali Programme. (January 2024 to June 2024)

#### Experience as Teaching Assistant:

Teaching Assistant for three academic cycles of UGC-Swayam platform, Ministry of Education, Government of India for MOOC on Buddhist Tourism. (May 2023-November 2023) (January 2024-March 2024) (July 2024-December 2024)

#### Paper Presentations:

1. 'Devagiri- A Forgotten Jain religious centre: A case study of some Shvetambar images' at Marathwada Itihasa Parishad held at Satara. (12th and 13th January 2024)
2. 'Human-Animal Interactions at the Buddhist Caves Nashik, Maharashtra' at International Conference on Buddhist Heritage of Maharashtra organized by Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Maharashtra State and Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University. (20th January 2024)
3. 'A Unique Partially Rock-Cut, Partially Structural Jain Cave: Cave-Temple no. 10 at Muktagiri' at the Indian Sculpture and Architecture Research Council's two-day National Conference on New Research Trends in Ancient South Indian Art and Iconography- Rock Paintings, Caves, Stupas, Chaityagrihas, Temples and Sculptures, held at Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya, Nilanga. (2nd and 3rd February 2024)
4. 'Jain Iconography with Special Reference to Maharashtra' at the One Day National Seminar on Archaeology of Maharashtra and Iconography held at Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur. (22nd March 2024)
5. 'Reappraisal of the Jain Images from Bhadravati, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra' at the 8th International Congress of Society of South Asian Archaeology held at Bihar Museum, Patna. (6th April 2024)

#### Articles Published:

1. 'Upekshit Gav te Prasiddha Warsa Sthal: Khairwada Mahapashaniya Sthalachya Watchalit Lokalakshyi Puratattvache Yogdan (in Marathi)' published in the proceedings of *National Seminar on Warsa ani Shashwat Vikas: Sandhi ani Avhane*, edited by Dr. Sadashiv Deokar and Dr. Vilas Wahane. (ISBN: 978-93-92361-90-6, pp. 184-189)
2. 'Hastalikhit: Tadapatra, Kagad ani Barach Kahi' (in Marathi) published in UGC CARE listed *Sanmati* Journal, June special issue on Shrutpanchami. (ISSN- 2395-5503, pp. 13-15)
3. 'Unique Partially Rock-Cut, Partially Structural Jain Cave-Temple: Cave no. 10 at Muktagiri' in Scopus Indexed, UGC Care List II *Ancient Asia* Journal, 2024, Volume: 15,

Accepted Articles:

1. Research article titled 'Devagiri- A Forgotten Jain religious centre: A case study of some Shvetambar images' (accepted in UGC Care listed *History Research Journal*).

Awards received:

1. Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) Study Cum Travel Grant. (11th January 2024)
2. Victoria and Albert Jain Fund Award of the Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum. (7th April 2024)

Invited Lectures Delivered:

1. On-site lecture for 43 students of Jnanaprabodhini School, Nigadi at Bedsa Buddhist Caves. (28<sup>th</sup> January 2024)
2. Online lectures on Jain Iconography for Diploma Course in Ancient Indian Art and Architecture for Department of AIHC and Archaeology, School of Social Sciences, Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur. (27th, 28th and 29th February 2024)
3. Online workshop on NET-SET preparation at Department of AIHC and Archaeology, School of Social Sciences, Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur. (28th March 2024)
4. Recorded a MOOC video on Jainism for 1 credit compulsory course on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam being launched by Symbiosis International University, Pune. (26th March 2024)
5. Guided the museum tour for senior citizens for Golden Hours Activity at Deccan College Archaeology Museum, Pune. (13th April 2024)
6. Organized Inter Collegiate Quiz Competition on Jain Art, Architecture, History and Heritage at Deccan College, Pune. (27th April 2024)
7. Rapporteur and volunteer in the 8th International Congress of SOSAA held at Bihar Museum, Patna. (7th April 2024)
8. Delivered a lecture on Jain Sects for MA semester II students of Religious History of



- India at Deccan College. (2nd May 2024)
9. Guided tour of the Archaeology Museum, Deccan College for the participants of Bhagwan Neminath Prakrit Fellowship, International School for Jain Studies. (9th May 2024)
  10. Delivered an online lecture on 'Heritage Heroes: Careers in History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies' for Sambhasha Foundation. (9th June 2024)
  11. Recorded a podcast in Marathi on Puratattva, Aitihāsik Warsa ani Apan for Kay Chalalay Youtube Channel. (2nd June 2024)
  12. Delivered a lecture (online) on 'Archaeology and Text: Case Study of the Jain Remains from Devagiri' for Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology. (6th July 2024)
  13. Lecture on History, Archaeology and Us for Krishak English School, Arvi. (11th July 2024)
  14. Delivered two lectures on 'Typology of Buddhist Rock-Cut Architecture' for MA students of Department of AIHC and Archaeology, Deccan College PGRI, Pune for ARC 301 Course. (12th August, 13th August)
  15. Delivered a lecture (online) on 'Jain Narratives: Their Iconography and Meanings' for Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology. (23rd August 2024)
  16. Conducted a workshop for school students at Parshva Pradnyalaya School on Jain Heritage and Archaeology. (18th and 25th August 2024)

#### Editorial Experience:

Assistant Editor for Proceedings of the 7th International Congress of Society of South Asian Archaeology titled '*Revisiting the Cultural Heritage of South Asia: Emerging Trends*', edited by Prof. Vasant Shinde, Dr. Shrikant Ganvir and Dr. Astha Dibyopama. ISSN: 978-81-971796-7-9. (4th April 2024)

#### Participation in other academic activities:

1. Guided the museum tour for senior citizens for Golden Hours Activity at Deccan College Archaeology Museum, Pune. (13th April 2024)
2. Helped in organising the First Inter Collegiate Quiz Competition on Jain Art, Architecture, History and Heritage at Deccan College, Pune. (27th April 2024)
3. Volunteering and organising help during the 8th International Congress of Society of South Asian Archaeology held at Bihar Museum, Patna. (31st to 8th April 2024)

4. Member of the sub-committee of Board of Studies for upcoming MA course on Buddhist Heritage and Tourism at Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. (18th and 19th June 2024)

Field work:

Field work on important sites like Shree Adinath Digambar Jain Setwal Mandir, Arvi; Shree Parshvanath Tatha Shree Kshetrapala Digambar Mandir, Rasulabad; Shantinath Digambar Jain Mandir, Nachangaon; Parshvanath Digambar Jain Mandir, Rohna; Brahma Vidya Mandir Ashram of Acharya Vinoba Bhave at Pavnar; Deserted brick Jain Temple at Pavnar; Digambar Jain Mandir, Sindi Railway; Ashtavinayaka Mandir, Kelzhar; Adinath Jain Shvetambar Mandir, Selu; Parshvanath Khandelwal Digambar Jain Mandir, Pulgaon; Digambar Jain Atishay Kshetra, Vijaygopal; Mahaveer Digambar Jain Mandir Ramnagar, Wardha; Adinath Digambar Jain Mandir, Deoli; Parshvaprabhu Digambar Jain Mothe Mandir, Nagpur; Johrapurkar Kachecha Mandir Gruhchaityalaya, Nagpur; Shree Adinath Digambar Jain Juna Mandir (Chhane Pani ka Mandir), Nagpur; Adinath Digambar Jain Atishay Kshetra, Bazargaon; Parshvanath Palliwal Digambar Jain Mandir, Kondhali; Parshvanath Digambar Saitwal Jain Mandir, Kondhali; Bhuyari Cave, Bhuyar; Mallinath Digambar Jain Mandir, Vyahad; Digambar Jain Mandir Parwar Oli, Kamthi; Chacher; Parshvanath Digambar Jain Mandir, Parseoni; Kolutmara; Shantinath Digambar Jain Atishay Kshetra, Ramtek; ASI protected site of Padampur; Khandelwal Digambar Jain Parshvanath Mandir, Nagpur; Shree Taran Taran Digambar Jain Chaityalaya; Saitwal Digambar Jain Mandir, Nagpur; Dharmapuri; Kumbhali Doh Mata Mandir, Kumbhali; Masal; Shitala Mata Mandir Khamtalav, Bhandara; Parshvanath Digambar Jain Kach Mandir, Arvi; Suparshvanath Digambar Jain Mandir, Kaundanyapur; Bhadravati; Antariksha Parshvanath Temple and Pavali Jain Temple, Shirpur.

#### **Activities as Assistant Professor**

The Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology has a provision of appointment of an Assistant Professor who has specialization in the fields of Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology to teach and undertake research on relevant topics of Jainism. After the due process, Oshin Bamb was selected as the Assistant Professor of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology and he has assumed his duties from the month of August 2024.

Below is a list of activities done by him during his tenure as the Assistant Professor:

Research Paper Presentation:

1. Research Paper on ‘Created Narratives: Case study of Jain images from Khamtalav and Kumbhali, District Bhandara, Maharashtra’ at the First National Annual Research Seminar on Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology held at Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune. (31st August 2024)

Published articles:

An article on “Sthapatya: Tantradnyan, Prakar ani Vikas (in Marathi)” in *Shikshanhakka Patrika Shikshandin va Diwali Visheshanka 2024*, special issue on *Bharatiya Dnyan Parampara: Ek Chikitsa*, vol 12, issue (7-8), pp. 65-71.

Invited Lectures Delivered:

1. Delivered an online lecture on ‘Serenity in Stone: Iconography, Architecture and Landscape at Muktagiri Siddha Kshetra’ for Prof. H. D. Sankalia Monthly Lecture Series on Jain Heritage at Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune. (30th September 2024)
2. Delivered two sessions on Jain Iconography and Jain Narrative Panels for Faculty Development Programme of MIT SOA IKS on Indian Iconography. (18th October 2024)
3. Conducted a Two-Day National Workshop on Jain Heritage: Jain Visual Art as subject expert at Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune. (8th and 9th November 2024)
4. Delivered an online lecture on ‘Devagiri: Prachin Jain Warsa Sthal’ in Marathi during World Heritage Week Lecture Series organised by Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Ministry of Culture, Government of Maharashtra, Murti va Sthapatya Sanshodhan Parishad and Sham Gadale Kala va Vidnyan Mahavidyalaya Dahiphal (Vadmauli) on 23rd November 2024.

Classroom Lectures Delivered:

1. Series of lectures on Jain Iconography covering iconography of Tirthankaras, Shasanadevatas, Minor deities, etc. was delivered for MA students of Ancient Indian Iconography at Deccan College.

2. Series of lectures (online) on Jain Iconography covering iconography of Tirthankaras, Shasanadevatas, Minor deities, etc. was delivered for students of Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology.
3. Series of lectures on Junnar Caves was delivered for MA students of Ancient Indian Architecture at Deccan College.
4. Series of lecture on Jain Rock-cut Architecture and Bronzes in Ancient India for MA students of Ancient Indian Architecture at Deccan College.

#### Participation in field trips:

1. Field trip for students of Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune at Naneghat and Junnar with Dr. Shrikant Ganvir. (13th October 2024)
2. Field trip for MA students of Department of AIHC and Archaeology, Deccan College PGRI, Pune for ARC 301 Course at Sanchi, Satdhara, Gyaspur, Udaygiri, Sonari, Indore, Bagh, Besnagar, Vidisha Museum, Central Museum Indore, etc. with Dr. Shrikant Ganvir. (19th to 25th October 2024)
3. Field trip for MA students of Department of AIHC and Archaeology, Deccan College PGRI, Pune for ARC 301 Course at Kanheri with Dr. Shrikant Ganvir. (26th November 2024)

#### Other Academic Activities:

1. Recorded a MOOC on Iconographic Scheme in Jain Temple and Jain Narratives for IKS project of MIT SOA, Loni Bhapkar. (3rd September 2024)
2. Assistant Coordinator of First National Annual Research Seminar on Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology held at Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune on 31st August 2024.

#### Field work:

A documentation cum study of the Jain remains at Devagiri (Daulatabad), District Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (formerly Aurangabad) was undertaken on 14th and 15th November 2024. The stray images lying in inaccessible areas of the fort, images and temple fragments pertaining to Jainism displayed at the sculpture shed and fragments reused in other structures of the fort were documented and studied.

Project completed:

Completed a Minor Research Project titled 'A Forgotten Jain Religious Centre of Devagiri: Investigating Coexistence of the Two Sects'. (January 2024 to December 2024). The final report of the project is under preparation.

## **Activities by Dhananjay Khandare**

**Research Assistant: 30/08/2024 to till date**

The Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology has a provision for the appointment of a Research Assistant who has specialisation in the fields of Jain Art, Architecture, and Archaeology to undertake research on relevant topics of Jainism. After the due process, Dhananjay Khandare was selected as the Research Assistant of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology and he assumed his duties from 30th August 2024.

He actively participated in the following activities:

1. Member of Management team of First National Annual Research Seminar on Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology held at Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune on 31st August 2024.
2. Member of the Management team of 'First National Workshop on Jain Heritage: Jain Visual Art' held at the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune on 8th and 9th November 2024.
3. Working on 'An Archaeological Exploration and Documentation of Anjaneri Jain Temples and Caves' Minor Research Project.

## **Activities by Prashant Goyal**

**Research Fellow: 23/10/2024 to till date**

Prashant Goyal joined as the Research Fellow of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology on 23rd October 2024. He is working actively on his PhD topic ‘Jain Temple Architecture and Sculpture with Special Reference to Chanderi and Its Vicinity: Early to 15th Century CE, Ashoknagar District, Madhya Pradesh.’ He has been referring to books by eminent scholars which would provide insights into Jain heritage in northern Madhya Pradesh. He has also studied research publications, articles and books by scholars like Professor Peter Flügel, Navneet Kumar Jain, Dr. Yashwant Singh, etc. These have helped him understand Jain architecture and its cultural importance. Since his association with Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, he has participated in workshops and lectures organized by the Chair. He has also been helping with the Bibliography Project, where he is involved in data collection, referencing, and writing about Jain heritage.

The details of his research topic are as follows:

### **Jain Temple Architecture and Sculpture with special reference of Chanderi and its Vicinity: Early to 15th Century CE, Ashoknagar District, Madhya Pradesh**

In Central India, early architecture from the Mauryan and Gupta periods can be seen at sites like Sanchi, Udayagiri, and Nachna-Kuthara. Jain temples in Madhya Pradesh started as simple structures during the Gupta period and later became more intricate, as seen at Khajuraho and Gyaraspur. Ashoknagar district, especially the Chanderi region, is rich in Jain heritage, with important sites like Budhi Chanderi, Tumen, Guril Pahad, Khandargiri, Thubon, and Kadwaya. These places have Jain temples, sculptures, and inscriptions, showing the region’s cultural importance. The Chanderi Museum displays many Jain sculptures, with more preserved in its reserve collection. Despite this, not enough research has been done on these sites. Detailed study can help uncover the full history of Jain temples and their gradual development in the region. This research will also highlight Chanderi’s significance as an important Jain center.

Important sites like Chanderi, Budhi Chanderi, Thubon, and Kadwaya lack systematic research on their architecture, art, and history. This gap makes it hard to understand the

cultural and religious importance of Jainism in the area. The history of Jain temples and sculptures in the region remains incomplete. This research aims to study these monuments and uncover their architectural and artistic significance.

Aims and Objectives of the research are:

1. To establish the chronology and stylistic affiliations of the existing Jain monuments in the Chanderi block.
2. To analyse the plan and elevation of these Jain temples and compare them with known Jain sites.
3. To explore the dynastic architectural styles reflected in the Jain temples of this region. To highlight Jain heritage sites in Ashoknagar district through village-level archaeological surveys.
4. To document the Jain heritage sites, artifacts, inscriptions, sculptures, and temples found during the surveys.
5. To study the origin and development of Jainism in the district and reveal its historical progression, including understanding sectarian influence.

This research will start with a review of previous studies and available materials, both published and unpublished. He will conduct archaeological surveys in villages, ancient sites, rock-cut caves, temples, and other areas to gather facts and data. Personal interviews with villagers will help collect local stories, legends, and information about ancient Jain sites, temples, and sculptures. Tools like toposheets, site descriptions, cameras, GPS, district maps, and other exploration equipment will be used during the surveys. Finally, the collected materials and information will be analysed to create a detailed and systematic history of Jain architecture and sculpture in the Ashoknagar district.



## **Work done by Vishal Rathod**

**Secretarial Assistant: 01/01/2024 to till date**

Vishal Rathod joined as the Secretarial Assistant on 01st January 2024. He assisted in the administrative work of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology and Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology.

He helped in the smooth organisation of the National Annual Research Seminar on Jain Art, Architecture and Archaeology, National Annual Workshop on Jain Heritage: Jain Visual Art, Prof. H. D. Sankalia monthly lecture series on Jain Heritage, Prof. S. B. Deo Memorial Annual Lecture on Jain Studies and other activities of the Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology. He also assisted in the actual aftermath of many of the activities.



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