



Recent achievements of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, Deccan College PGRI (Deemed to be University), Pune

The Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology at the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune has been successfully functioning with the financial aid of International School for Jain Studies (a division of Amar Prerana Trust) and Vardhamana Charitable Foundation, USA. In the past six months (January 2026 to June 2026), the Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology has undertaken the following activities:

1. **Visit of the delegates of Vardhamana Charitable Foundation and International School for Jain Studies**—Dr. Jasvant Modi, Dr. Meera Modi, Dr. Shugan Jain, Dr. Manish Mehta, Dr. Ashok Jethawat, Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Dr. Sharmila Oswal and other scholars. The delegation held a meeting with Prof. Prasad Joshi, Vice-Chancellor (A), Prof. Shahida Ansari, Head, Department of AIHC and Archaeology, Dr. Shrikant Ganvir, Coordinator, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology and other staff members of the Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology. (20th January 2026)
2. **Prof. M. A. Dhaky Second Annual Memorial Lecture on Jain Art was delivered by Prof. Julia A. B. Hegewald** on ‘Depictions of Real and Mythical Animals in Jaina Temples in India and Abroad’ on the occasion of World Heritage Day (27th April 2026)
3. **Prof. H. D. Sankalia Monthly Lecture Series on Jain Heritage** is an initiative to bring awareness about Jain heritages and encourage young scholars by giving them a platform for presenting their research. The lectures were delivered online and were attended by a good number of attendees who actively participate in the question-and-answer session. Lectures are available on the official YouTube channel of Deccan College, Pune: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8k-NSalZkNQ&list=PLxZkVrVJIMKBU2g4MVEuwPFN04RUBt7Tb>). During January 2026 and June 2026, the following lectures were organised:

Lecture 15: Aditi Chaudhary on ‘Gyan Chaupar as a Thinking System: Jain Philosophy and Material Culture.’ (29th January 2026)

Lecture 16: Dr. Chaitanya Sathe on ‘Ghaṇṭākarna in Jainism: The Guardian Deity.’ (23rd February 2026)

Lecture 17: Srihari Tote on ‘Mapping Devotion: Shrines, Rock-Cut Sanctuaries, and Jain Hagiography at Dharashiva.’ (25th March 2026)

Lecture 18: Prashant Goyal on ‘Exploring Jain Remains in Northern Madhya Pradesh: Some Recent Findings.’ (30th April 2026)

Lecture 19: Rahul Maurya on ‘Uncovering Jain Heritage: Recent Archaeological Findings from Malwa, Central India’ (27th May 2026)

Lecture 20: Siddarth Kale on ‘Jain Material Culture from Sopara, Maharashtra: Sculptural Evidence and Literary References.’ (25th June 2026)

4. Commencement of the third batch of **Certificate Course in Jain Art and Archaeology** with 21 Indian and 4 International participants. (6th February 2026)
5. Oshin Bamb, Assistant Professor, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, won the **Dr. Puja Bharati Memorial Best Paper Presenter Award at the 33rd Session of Indian Art History Congress** held at Mythic Society, Bengaluru for his paper “Karanja Lad: A Thriving Centre of Jain Art in the Medieval and Late Medieval Vidarbha.” (7th–9th February 2026)
6. Monograph titled “**Unearthing Jainism: History, Archaeology and Sacred Traditions of Devagiri (Daulatabad)**”, authored by Oshin Bamb, was published and inaugurated at the hands of Dr. G. B. Deglurkar, an eminent art-historian and former President, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune. Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar, an eminent scholar of Jain Textual Tradition and Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Director, International School for Jain Studies also guided the students who had gathered on the occasion. The monograph is published by Research India Press, New Delhi in collaboration with Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune. (23rd March 2026)
7. Oshin Bamb, Assistant Professor, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, presented a paper titled “Bhāṇḍa Devala Jain Temple at Arang, Chhattisgarh: The Dialogue between Divinity and Erotics” at the annual workshop on Jaina Material Culture held at **Centre for Jaina Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London** with the financial aid from Jain Academic Foundation of North America. (28th March 2026)
8. A detailed **archaeological documentation of Jain temples and images from Kolhapur District, Maharashtra** was done by the team (Dr. Shrikant Ganvir, Coordinator; Oshin Bamb, Assistant Professor; Dhananjay Khandare, Research Assistant; Sumit Gupta, Field Assistant) of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology. Many lesser known and isolated images, ruined temples, inscriptions pertaining to Jainism in Kolhapur District were documented. (April 2026)
9. Thirteen students did their **On-Job-Training in Documentation of Jain Remains Internship Programme**, where they were trained in Jain Art and Iconography. Their teams were assigned documentation work regarding Jain images on display at specific museums. (May and June 2026)
10. Shubhodeep Karmakar and Megha Shyam, students of MA programme in Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, did their **Research Projects on**

documentation of Jain remains from Vidisha and Indore Museum respectively under the guidance of Dr. Shrikant Ganvir, Coordinator, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology. (January 2026)

Some Glimpses



Delegates during their visit at Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune



Welcoming of Dr. Jasvant Modi by Prof. Prasad Joshi



Dr. Shugan Jain sharing his insights during the meeting



Presentation during the international workshop held at School for Oriental and African Studies SOAS, University of London



Archaeological documentation under progress



Students being trained in Jain Art and Iconography



Inauguration ceremony of the monograph (Prof. Prasad Joshi, Dr. G. B. Deglurkar, Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar, Prof. Shahida Ansari, Dr. Shrinetra Pandey, Dr. Shrikant Ganvir and author Oshin Bamb)