

Book Release Function of ‘Unearthing Jainism’ at Deccan College

The book release function of the book titled ‘Unearthing Jainism: History, Archaeology and Sacred Traditions of Devagiri (Daulatabad), authored by Oshin Bamb, Assistant Professor, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, was organised at Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune by the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology under the aegis of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, on 23rd March 2026.

The book was inaugurated at the hands of Dr. G. B. Deglurkar (Former President, Deccan College and an eminent art-historian). Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar (Former faculty, Savitribai Phule Pune University and an eminent scholar of Prakrit) and Dr. Shrinetra Pandey (Director, International School for Jain Studies, a division of Amar Prerana Trust) graced the occasion as special guest and guests of honour, respectively. Drawing upon a wide range of archaeological evidence, including sculptural remains, temple vestiges and inscriptions, and integrating these with the Jain texts, the monograph adopts a robust interdisciplinary approach grounded in the model of “Text and Archaeology.” Through this method, the study reconstructs the Jain sacred landscape of Devagiri and situates it within the broader socio-political, economic and cultural frameworks of the medieval Deccan. Prof. Prasad Joshi (Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (A)) chaired the session. Prof. Shahida Ansari (Head, Dept. of AIHC and Archaeology) presented an introduction of the Dept. of A.I.H.C. and Archaeology. Dr. Shrikant Ganvir (Coordinator, Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology) presented an introduction of ongoing academic activities of the Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology.

Oshin Bamb shared the journey of his research on the Jain archaeological remains of Devagiri and expressed the view that this monograph is a modest attempt to reconstruct the lesser-known aspects of Devagiri as a flourishing centre of Jainism through the methodological framework of the Archaeology of religion.

Prof. Prasad Joshi appreciated Oshin Bamb, the author of the book, for the completion of the report of the research project of the Jain Chair and its publication in the form of the present book.

Dr. Rajashree Mohadikar emphasised the importance of Jain literature in the reconstruction of ancient Indian history.

Dr. Shrinetra Pandey shared his thoughts on the book and the academic activities of the Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology. Dr. Pandey said that the present book has introduced a new aspect to look at the archaeological remains of the Devagiri fort as an important Jain heritage site.

Dr. G.B. Deglurkar expressed his views on the book. Dr. Deglurkar said that the book has established that Devagiri (currently known as Daulatabad) was a flourishing and vibrant centre of Jainism during the early medieval and medieval periods, based on Jain architecture and sculptural remains, and further corroborated by Jain texts. Dr. Deglurkar congratulated Oshin Bamb, the author of the book, for bringing out an important aspect of the archaeological personality of Devgiri as a Jain heritage and pilgrimage site.

Dr. Shrikant Ganvir said that this book on Devagiri, authored by Oshin Bamb, would serve as a model for young researchers working in the field of Archaeology of religion, to attest that how archaeological remains can be corroborated with textual tradition.

Dhananjay Khandare and Guruvendra Kushwaha introduced the guests of the function. Chaitanya Raje did comparing of the function. Dhananjay Khandare, Research Assistant of Bhagwan Shitalnath Chair for Jain Archaeology, proposed a vote of thanks.

The book is published by Research Press India, New Delhi, in collaboration with Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Pune.

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