

# PRĀKRIT TIMES

An Effort to Re-Enrich India's Endangered Ancient Prakrit Language

EDITOR : DR. ARIHANT KUMAR JAIN

SUB - EDITOR : DR. INDU JAIN RASHTRA GAURAV

गमो जिणारं

## Chanting of Prākṛit Verses (Gāthās) and Sanskrit Matras in Bhūmi Pūjan of New Parliament House of Bhārat



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A new chapter in India's history was added when Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament House on Thursday. On this historic occasion, to spread the message of the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' to the world and to make the occasion auspicious, a 'Sarvadharmā Prayer' (Interfaith Prayer) program was organized, laying the foundation of the Parliament House under 'Bhūmi Pūjan'. On this auspicious occasion, specially invited **Dr. Indu Jain Rashtra Gaurav** and **Dr. Lokesh Muni** represented Jainism. First Lokesh Muni gave the message of world peace while starting with **Namokar Mahamantra** in Prakrit, then Dr. Indu started with the **Prakrit verses** (Gāthā) from Ācārya Kundakunda's 'Pravachanasara' text, along with the recitation of **Mangalashtaka** and **Mahavirashtaka** in Sanskrit language. They not only represented Jainism, but also represented the ancient language and culture of India along with Jainism. Due to which the entire parliament started buzzing.

Significantly, Dr. Indu Jain has been representing Jainism at the national level through Jain prayer for the last decade in the Sarvadharmā prayer organized on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and Gandhi ji's death anniversary. Dr. Indu Jain is the daughter of President Awardee and former Head of Department of Jainology, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi, Prof. Phoolchand Jain Premi and Dr. Munni Jain. She while talking to our correspondent said that she felt overwhelmed as a witness to this historical scene.

On this auspicious occasion, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said in his address that "If the old Parliament House gave direction to Bharat after independence, the new building will witness the construction of a self-reliant India". Home Minister Amit Shah said that "The New Parliament House will be the symbol of a self-reliant Bharat that will become the center for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the countrymen". Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that "Democracy in Bharat is a sacrament, it is a life chants. The soul of Bharat is democracy". It is believed that there is a preparation to complete the construction of the new Parliament building by October 2022, so that a session can be organized in this building on the 75th anniversary of the independence. The size of the Lok Sabha in the new Parliament House will be three times that of the existing one. At the same time, the size of Rajya Sabha will also increase. You can watch the video on <https://youtu.be/H9sWRwjiBKO>



EDITORIAL....



@drarihant



### Namo Jiṇaṇam to All

The key to life is to accept the challenges and 2020 was a big challenge for us. Now we are saying goodbye to the year 2020. This year has silently told us a lot, we were made aware of reality and opened our eyes. Even though this year will be remembered as a nightmare in the

future, I believe that 2020, like a tough teacher, has been taught a lot by punishing. It was difficult for all of us but the difficulties are to awaken, not to discourage. The human spirit is to become stronger than struggle.

Once Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said,

*"Difficulties in life do not come to destroy you, but help you realize your hidden potential and power. Tell the difficulties that you are tough too."*

But 2020 has also given a lot. This year has proved very excellent with the expectation of propagation of oriental languages and literature. First of all, in order to spread the importance of Prakrit language and its great literature to the people worldwide, your own newsletter 'Prakrit Times' was launched, which received immense love and blessings from all of you. At the beginning of the lock down, a 15-day Shrut Panchami Prakrit Lecture series was broadcast via Facebook Live under the joint aegis of Pagad Bhasha and Prakrit Times, in which independent lectures of world renowned scholars on various dimensions of Prakrit language were presented. Thousands of spectators from across the country and abroad connected with this lecture series, learned and thanked us for this kind of oriental language program. Thus, Prakrit language and literature was highly publicized and spread worldwide.

Inspired by this first online big Event, the young scholars and various institutes also organized many webinars on Prakrit-Sanskrit language and literature at National and International level through various online mediums and the chain is still going on.

I want to tell you about another event, In the presence of eminent Sanskrit scholars, I had the opportunity to attend and present a paper on a three-day International Sanskrit Research Conference (28–30 November 2020) on the sub-

ject "Contribution of Modern Poets in Sanskrit Literature" organized under the aegis of Delhi University. The topic of my article was "Contribution of Param Pujya Ācāryashri Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj in the development of modern Shataka literature of Sanskrit", listening to the important contributions of Ācāryashri, the Chairman, Chief Guest, Special Guest, Supervisor and Convenor of the session, in one voice, saluted the great Sant Shiromani Ācāryashree of the era and gave suggestions to the research scholars to conduct research on his literature. He also said that many Jain scholars have enriched Sanskrit-Prakrit literature, but the task of bringing them is to be done by the younger generation. The three-day international conference was attended by many scholars from across the world and around 80 papers were presented.

Pausing my point, I would like to say that 'Prakrit Times' is completely dedicated to the promotion and propagation of Prakrit language. Whatever the circumstances, we will keep trying to bring this language back to its rich form. This effort need your love, your blessings. With these feelings

**Happy New Year to all of you.**

**Dr. Arihant Kumar Jain**

**Assistant Professor,**

Department of Jainology and Comparative Religion & Philosophy, Jain Vishva Bharti Institute (Deemed-to-be University), Ladnun (Raj), **Mob:** 8169911946, 9967954146

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## Opportunity : Vacancies of Jain Philosophy Scholars in Jain Studies Centers Abroad

**University of North Texas** - The Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of North Texas, Dallas, TX invites applications for the Bhagwan Adinath Professor of Jain Studies. The appointment will be at the rank of Associate Professor, with an expected starting date of Fall 2021. For more detail check this link : <https://jobs.untssystem.edu/postings/40850>

**University of California, Los Angeles** - The Center for the Study of Religion in UCLA's humanities division has received a landmark \$150,000 commitment from 10 families in the Jain community to establish the Bhagawan Abhinandan Jain Lectureship in Jainism and Religions of India. The lectureship will be in place for three years and includes funds for course offerings and public programs. The Center for the Study of Religion at UCLA welcomes applications for a lectureship in Jainism and South Asian Religions. The position will be expected to teach a total of four courses over the 2021-2022 academic year. Two courses will be in the area of Jain Studies, one comparative course in the area of Jainism and non-violent religious traditions, and one course in Religions of India. This position will also assist the Center Director with programming in Jain Studies. [www.college.ucla.edu](http://www.college.ucla.edu)

**Willamette University** - The Bhagwan Chandraprabhu Postdoctoral Fellowship in Jain Studies will be awarded to a new or recent Ph.D. with an expertise in Jain Studies (with competency also in other South Asian Dharmic traditions), who will contribute to the intellectual life, cultural fluency, and research excellence of Claremont School of Theology(CST) and the Willamette campus, and who shows significant promise as a scholar and teacher as well as promoter of interest in this religion in the wider community. Kindly Send Your Details to the Dean's Office, [thedeansoffice@cst.edu](mailto:thedeansoffice@cst.edu). (Electronic Submissions only)

## Blessings for the 'Prakrit Times' Newsletter By World Renowned Scholars

**Prof. Baccharaj Dugar, Vice Chancellor, Jain Vishva Bharti (Deemed to be University), Ladnun**



*A wonderful beginning. It's a need of the time that Prakrit Language and Literature should be popularized throughout the globe. So humanity can be familiar with global values, ideas i.e. Ahimsa, Aparigraha and Anekant propounded by Lord Mahavira. My best wishes for your noble effort.*

**Steven M. Vose, Director, Jain Studies Program, Department of Religious Studies, Florida International University**



*Nicely done and best wishes for the long run. I'll be happy to keep you abreast of my work relevant to this publication. With best wishes*  
**Bhagwan Mahavir Assistant Professor of Jain Studies, Miami, USA**

**Prof. K.C. Sogani, Director, Apbharansa Sahitya Academy, Jaipur**



*Your Prakrit Times is a wonderful beginning. India needs it. Very few persons are capable of doing this important work. Keep speeding up this important work like this, never stop. Congratulations. Best wishes*

**Dr. Hab. Ulrich Timme Kragh, Visiting Professor, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan**



*Good effort! Try to keep this initiative always international and academic in nature, as you have done in this first issue. The richness of the topics and their relevance are excellent. With best regards.*  
**Director, Hayden White Research Center for Narrative Modes**

**Prof. Samani Riju Prajna, Head, Dept. of Jainology and Comparative Religion & Philosophy, Jain Vishva Bharti Institute (Deemed to be University), Ladnun**



*Dr. Arihant is a learned young scholar. It's our immense pleasure that he has commenced an important task i.e. publication of "Prakrit Times".*  
*Definitely, it is a big step for promoting the oriental language. I really appreciate his pious effort and wish him for keeping it up.*

**Dr. Sulekh C. Jain, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA**



*I congratulate you on the start of the Prakrit Times for bringing out the awareness and the news about the teaching, training, and promotion of the Prakrit language. This is a service that will not only be historical but also will be very unifying and motivating to scholars in Prakrit. I am copying Dr. Shugan Jain Ji in Delhi and Dilip Shah (in the USA). Hope we all can work together in this noble effort. Again with my many congratulations.*

**Prof. Premsuman Jain, Former Director & Professor, National Institute Of Prakrit Studies & Research, Shravanabelagola**



*'Prakrit Times' is a good initiative. This will prove to be a pillar in the propagation of Prakrit. Congratulations and best wishes for responsibility.*

**Prof. P.N. Shastri, Vice-Chancellor, Central Sanskrit University**



*Oriental languages are indicative of the rich tradition of our country, Prakrit is one of them. Work should be done globally in this field. Dr. Arihant's effort is applaudable. Best Wishes.*

**Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, President, Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur**



*Peace and greetings from Jodhpur. I must not only congratulate but thank you too for your this endeavor which will give a new lease of life to the Prakrit Language and new dimensions to the study of Jain Religious tradition. It goes without saying that both of them represent the linguistic, cultural, and religious ethos of this country, without whom you can't understand the idea of India. I wish you all success. With best regards,*  
**Professor Emeritus, (Islamic Studies), Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi**

**Prof. Jagat Ram Bhattacharyya, Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit Bhasa-Bhavana, West Bengal, India Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan**



*It is really a great pleasure to see the first issue of the 'Prakrit Times'. A magazine dedicated to the Prakrit Language and Jainism is need of the hour.*  
*It will certainly be appreciated by the scholars of Prakrit language, literature, and Jain philosophy in particular and of Indology in general. This is splendid that your effort to serve the flavor of ancient India thought, heritage, and culture to the world through your publication. I wish your endeavor should achieve its success.*

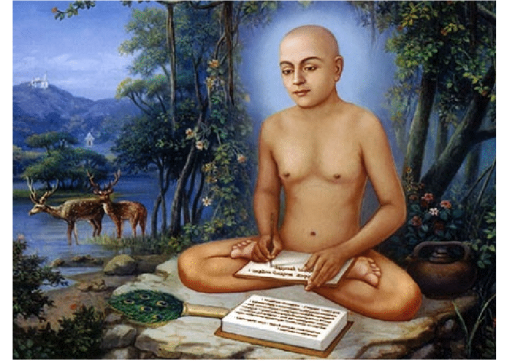
**HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO ALL OF YOU  
FROM PRAKRIT TIMES**



**Introduction of Ācārya – 4****Ācārya Yativrashabha**

Ācārya Yativrashabha was a mathematician and a Jain monk. His name is well-known in the context of Acaryas in the Jain tradition who have written on geography and astronomy. He is noted for his book named Tiloyapannatti (Treatise on Three Worlds), though he has one Curni-text (short commentary) on Kasaya Pahuda (Bouquet of Passions) of Ācārya Gunadhara (2—3th Century CE).

The Tiloyapannatti (abbreviated as TP, 'A suggestion on the three region of the universe' is an ancient text composed by yatvrashabha in nine chapters in Prakrit, which describes geography, cosmology from the point of view of Jain philosophy. This is the major text of Karaṇanuyoga. The work also gives various units for measuring distances, length and time, various civil engineering works, geometry of circle and the different dimensions of shape, size etc. Jain universe along with use of zero and other mathematical symbols, and operations. According to his units, the real atom of today has the size of 1012—1033 cm. a wonderful similarity with the current atomic size. In Tiloya Panatti there is superworldly mathematics also in terms of innumerable and infinities. It postulated different concepts about infinity. It also presents an introductory description of the Tirthankaras. The text represents the various areas of contemporary period. He is referred by later authors on the subject. Besides, he has dealt with architectural details of houses, temples, different kinds of halls and the like. The work also has references to names of old Indian languages and is particularly useful for the study of Indian mathematics. Scholars consider it to be written before the fifth century A.D.

**Verse (Gāthā) no. 4**

समसत्तुबंधुवग्गो समसुहदुक्खो पसंसणिंदसमो ।  
समलोत्तुहकंचणो पुण जीविदमरणे समो समणो ॥ 3/41 ॥

*Samsattubandhuvaggo samasuhadukkho pasaṇsaṇiṇḍasamo .*

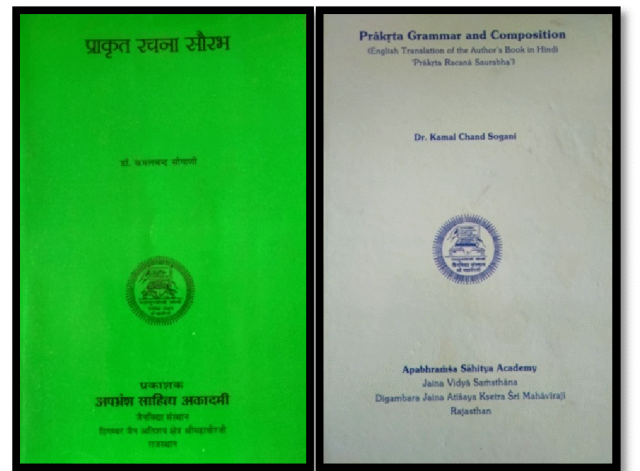
*Samalotthukaṇḍhaṇo puṇ jīvidamarane samo samaṇo*

**Pravachanasara, Ācārya Kundakunda,**

That a monk who holds composure, who stays stable in friends and enemies, joy and sorrow, praise and insult, rock and gold and stays firm both in life and death is called as sramana. The monk who is abstained from worldly matters and the one who is devoid of aversion is called as sramana. The one who is without any possessions, keeps faith in the habit of begging and immersed in self mediation is called as Sramana.

**Book Introduction : 'Prākṛta Racanā Saurabh'**

"Prakrit Rachana Saurabh" is an excellent book for presenting the Prakrit language and its features, which is prepared by a renowned Prakrit and Jainism scholar, Presidential Awardee Prof. Kmalchand Sogani, Jaipur. According to him the multi-faceted aspects of Indian folk life, philosophical and spiritual traditions are rooted in Prakrit literature. After Mahavir-era various prakrita's developed. Out of which the names of three types of Prakrit are taken with pride in the field of literature. They are Ardhamagadhi, Shaurseni and Maharashtri. Jain agam literature and poetic literature are found in these three prakrit. The philosophical-spiritual tradition of Mahavira is composed in Ardhamagadhi and Shaurseni Prakrit and the language of poems is generally called Maharashtri. These three Prakrit have a proud place in the cultural history of India. Therefore, it is very important to learn and teach them. Keeping this in mind, the book 'Prakrit Rachana Saurabh' has been composed.



In this book, An Author have tried to teach all three types of Prakrit suffixes. According to the grammar of Hemachandrācārya, suffixes of Maharashtri and Shaurseni used in writing lessons. If there is any difference between the suffixes of Ardhamagadhi, it is explained in the footnote. In this way the reader will be able to understand the suffixes of the three Prakrit. The text of the book is laid out in such a way that the readers will be able to learn the grammar of Prakrit language easily and the practice of writing in Prakrit will also be able to do.

In this book, an attempt has been made to teach Prakrit grammar from the syntax in Prakrit itself. The method of writing the text adopted in the Apbhṛanśa Rachana Saurabh (published), the same Prakrit composition has been used in Prakrit Rachana Saurabh. For Shaurseni and Maharashtri Prakrit, the basis of the 'Sutras' of Hemachandrācārya's Prakrit-Vyakarana is taken in the lessons of the book presented. A.M. Ghatge's 'Introduction to Aradha-Magadhi' and R. Pischel's 'Grammar of Prakrit Languages' books have been taken as the basis for Ardhamagadhi Prakrit. Their references are given in the footnotes. The Book is Published from Apbhṛanśa Sahitya Academy, Jaipur.

## Legendary Scholars of Prakrit – 4

## Siddhāntācārya Pandit Phoolchand Ji Shāstri



Siddhāntācārya Pandit Phoolchand ji Shāstri was an eminent scholar of Prākṛit and Jainism, he was an epitome of simple living and high thinking. He was born in the village of Silawan, District Lalitpur on April 11th, 1901. In his lifetime Panditji established many institutions and worked for their development. A list of these institutions and his various literary

works is presented below. There are three main canonical texts (scriptures) of Jains; these are the detailed commentaries on Satkhandagam named as, Dhavala, Kashyapahud Commentary Jaidhavala, and Maha-Dhavala. These manuscripts are written in Prakrit language, and were kept hidden in the temples of Karnataka for thousand of years. Due to the untiring efforts of Panditji and many other scholars, the knowledge of these manuscripts enriched the lives of millions of people. Panditji has been instrumental in making available/translating these manuscripts in Hindi. None could lequal his mastery over these manuscripts.

He served in Various places, the main among which is Kashi Hindu Vishvavidyalaya, Varanasi and Syadvad Mahavidyalaya, Varanasi (1924 to 1928), also he served

in Bina Mahavidyalaya as a Principal (1930). Pandit Phoolchand Shastri ji and his two counterpoise/colleagues namely Pandit Kailash Chandra ji and Pandit Jaganmohan Lalji, were famously known as "Ratnatrayi". Pandit Kailash Chandarji Shastri wrote *"I have acquired canonical knowledge only through reading the translations by Pandit Phool Chandra Shastri"* Pandit Jaganmohan ji Shastri wrote for Pandit Phool Chandra Shastri that *"he is only four years older to me in age but hundreds of years older in knowledge"*.

Panditji has been also a part of many social and political changes/reforms/agitations, some of which were initiated by him. He was an active member of the Indian National Congress prior to India independence. He took an active part in the "Quit India movement and also served in jail in 1941 Throughout his life Panditji wore Khadi and was a Swadeshi activist After India got its independence.

His unique contributions in the field of Prakrit and Jainagama led him to be honored with numerous awards. He was Conferred the title of "SiddhantĀcārya" by Dr. Anantshayanam Ayangar, Governor of Bihar, at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Jain Siddhant Bhawan, Aara (1962) and also Conferred the title of "Siddhant Ratna" by the Hon. Vice President of India, Dr. B.D. Jatti, on the occasion of 2500th Nirvana celebrations of Lord Mahavira.

## 52nd Bhattarak Dīksha Day of Karmayogi Swasti Shri Charukeerthi Bhattarak Swami ji of Shravanabelagola

His Holiness Karmayogi Swastishri Charukeerthi Bhattarak Swamiji Dīksha is completing 52 years. Born on 3 May 1949 in Waranga, Ratnavarma was chosen a successor even before he had completed the age of 20 years. He was selected by the then Bhattarak Bhattakalank Swamiji. He first studied as a silent seeker. He propagated Jainism across the world and Dedicated life to the prosperity of the Shravanabelagola monastery. He spread the message of Lord Bahubali Swami and Shravanabelagola Tirtha to the people, making it universal. The credit for the excellent arrangement of more than 350 sadhus of various sanghas and traditions during the organizing of the Mahamastakabhisheka of 1981, 1993, 2006, 2018 is the result of his high thinking.

Shravanabelagola is famous for Prakrit palm leaves, manuscripts and inscriptions since ancient times. With his holy inspiration, a large research institute National Institute of Prakrit Studies & Research and Prakrit Bahubali Vidyapeeth is run there. He has organized huge national and international conferences on ancient languages like Prakrit and Sanskrit, and still constantly trying to revive them through different source.

He is the founder of the world's first Prakrit University to be established in Shravanabelagola. 'Shat Shat Vandan' on behalf of 'Prakrit Times' on the 52nd initiation day of puja swami ji, who often engaged in silent practice.



## Six Month Prakrit Diploma Program Inaugurated as 'PRAKRIT PATHSHALA'



The Six Monthly Course of Prakrit language was Inaugurated on 12 December 2020 by 'Jain Foundation' in collaboration with Gommateshwar Bahubali Vidyapeeth affiliated from Mysore University. The program started with the Mangalacharan of the famous Jain Representative, Dr. Indu Jain Rashtra Gaurav.

Highlighting the objectives of the event, the President of the Jain Foundation, Shri Ramesh Shah said 'first of all, it is a matter of privilege that this entire course will conducted by Presidential Awardee and renowned scholar **Prof. Phoolchand Jain Premi(Varanasi)**. Prof. Premi told the importance and prevalence of Prakrit language and said that through

'Prakrit Pathshala' people will be able to learn it and their interest towards Prakrit will increase. The program was successfully coordinated by Neil Shah.

In this 'Prakrit Pathshala', about 250 participants from all over the country had registered, but due to the limit of admission, only 100 students were included. The remaining will be given an opportunity in the next session. All participants belong to different work areas. Among them, Mrs. Shobha Vardhman (Chennai), mother of Courageous Wing Commander Abhinandan Vardhman, is also learning Prakrit.



## Prakrit Language Inscriptions along Telangana's Manjira river hints at Buddhist glory

Scholars say that the site spreads an area of about 100 acres and is likely to yield a large number of Archaeological Materials



In a curious historical discovery, scholars from Telangana have found an ancient Buddhist inscription on terracotta in Prakrit language on the banks of Manjira river near Kulcharam of Medak district. According to a team of historians, the inscription reads as "devanam" with a prefixed symbol of "nandipada" indicating a link to Emperor Ashoka of the Mauryan dynasty. The characters on the inscription are said to be from the 3 BC century. Historical and Archaeological researcher MA Srinivasan and his team members B Shankar Reddy, B Nagaraju and Arun Kumar have located the mound at the island formed by two streams of Manjira. "The script paleo-graphically assignable to Mauryan period on the terracotta is a rare and landmark epigraphical discovery in India in general and Telangana state in particular," said the scholars in the release.

As many as three Buddhist label inscriptions which are also in Prakrit language and Brahmi script of 1 BC -1 AD were also found in rock shelters near the site of terracotta. The rock shelter has evidence of neolithic period too.

The inscriptions read as 'Henamo Buddeya', 'dhamma', 'he jama' are found on the rock boulders. The researchers found them after cleaning these rocks and in the process of finding a supporting ancient habitation site for the Buddhist rock shelter.

The site spreads an area of about 100 acres and is likely to yield a large number of archaeological materials besides evidence like fortification wall, terracotta objects such as different pot-shreds of red slipped ware, black polished ware and dull red ware according to MA Srinivasan.

While urging the department of Heritage and the Archaeological Survey of India to take up the survey and excavations of the site to bring out more evidence to light MA Srinivasan said "This discovery unveils a new chapter in the history of Telangana as this is the first time we could find such precious evidence in Manjira valley."



**"It is possible that inscriptions related to Jainism are also here, as most of the Brahmi script and Prakrit language ancient inscriptions belong to Jainism itself and South India has been a stronghold of Jains. It is well known that Jain-Buddhist - both these streams are called Shramana tradition. Due to the prevalence of Buddhism, it may also be possible that archaeologists have declared Jain inscriptions as Buddhist due to confusion. My appeal to society and scholars is that it should be investigated. May be we find the ancient treasures of rich Jain history."** - Prakrit Times

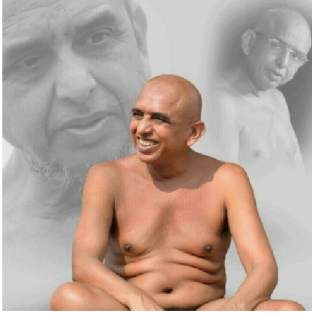
## Webinar on Health Related Sutras in Prākṛit Literature at JVBI, Ladnun

A one-day National Webinar on the subject of "Health Related Sutras in Prākṛit Literature" was organized by Jain Vishwa Bharati Institute, Department of Prākṛit and Sanskrit. Honorable President of the webinar Prof. Damodar Shastri, while expressing his views, described Prākṛit Canonical Literature as a treasure trove of health sources. He said that health related discussions have taken place in many places in the Agama literature and there are two distinctions of health in the Agamas - Internal health and External health. Austerity, moderation, exertion and dietary purification are required to heal internal health, and medicine is needed to heal external health. He also propounded Lord Mahavira as a physician in this context.

The keynote speaker of this webinar, Prof. Dharmachand Jain (Jaipur), emphasized on purification and said that the root of all diseases is inaccuracy of our diet. If we take a restrained diet then we can avoid many diseases. Prof. Srinnyansh Singhai (Jaipur), the distinguished speaker of the seminar, explained the importance of health with many quotes from Prākṛit Agams. Enforcing the subject, Prof. Samani Kusumprajna explained the health sources contained in the Jain Agamas and also proved the relevance of these formulas in the present context. Highlighting the objectives of the webinar, Dr. Samani Sangeetprajna described this webinar as very relevant in this era of Corona epidemic.

Eminent Scholars like Prof. Jinendra kumar Jain (Udaipur), Prof. Sushma Singhavi (Jaipur), and Prof. Anekant Kumar Jain (New Delhi) also expressed their views in this session. The webinar commenced with the Prākṛit Verses recited by Dr. Arihant Kumar Jain and was convened by Dr. Satyanarayana Bharadwaj which was attended by many participants from various regions of the country.

## Samadhi (Mausoleum) of Sarākoddhāraka Ācārya Shri 108 Jñānasagar Ji Maharaj



Sixth PattĀcārya of the tradition of Ācārya Shri Shantisagarji Maharaj Chhaṇi, the unexpectedly samadhi of Sarakoddharaka Rashtrasant Ācārya Shri Jñānasagarji Maharaj, took place at 5.30 pm on 15 November 2020 (Bhagwan Mahavir Nirvana Day Deepavali) in Shri Shantinath Digambar Jain Atishay Kshetra Nasiyaji Baran (Rajasthan). Ācāryashree was doing Chaturmas in Baran city of Rajasthan.

Ācāryashree was doing Chaturmas in Baran city of Rajasthan. A special puja was organized to commemorate Lord Mahavira's Nirvana Day. Ācāryashree also gave sermons. Devalok-gaman was done in the evening. Suddenly, the news of his samadhi spread a wave of mourning in Jain society across the country. Whoever heard this news was surprised. Nobody could believe this unimaginable news.

Ācārya Shri Gyanasagar Ji Maharaj, the most influential disciple of Param Puja Ācārya Sumatisagarji Maharaj, was born on 1 May 1957, in Morena Nagar, Madhya Pradesh, to his father Shri Shantilalji and mother Asharfiddeviji Jain. He took a BrahmĀcārya vow in Ajmer (Rajasthan) in 1974 from Sant Shiromani Ācāryashree Vidyasagarji Maharaj. On 5 November 1976 at Siddhakshetra Sonagiriji, Ācārya Shri Sumatisagarji named him Gangasagar after giving him initiation. In 1988, Muni Diksha was given in Sonagir ji on 31 March 1988 on the auspicious occasion of Mahavir Jayanti and was known as Muni Gnanasagarji Maharaj. In 1989, he was awarded the position of Upadhyaya in Sardhana District Meerut (U.P.). In 2013, he was declared the 6th Pat-tadhish Ācārya of the Chhaṇi tradition after the samadhi of the fifth PattĀcārya Vidyabhushan Sanmati Sagarji at the "Atishakshetra" of Bargaon (UP).

Ācāryashree was popular in every section of the society due to his strong voice, amazing work with far-sightedness. Your messages will always be alive in our hearts. With these feelings 'Prakrit Times' pays tribute to such great Ācārya.

### Tribute to the World Renowned Scholar of Prakrit & Jainism Prof. Sagarmal Ji Jain



On 2nd December 2020, the soul of Dr. Sagarmal Jain departed the material body under the observance of the vow of Santhara. His demise, is a loss immeasurable in the field of Indology, Prakrit and Jainology. A Karmayogi and Gyanyogi in true sense, Dr Sagarmalji Jain leaves behind an impact which shall inspire many for generations to come! His

life story, is an example of a life lived meaningfully well. He has written 67 books in Hindi, English and Prakrit language. He was awarded the President Award in the year 2018 for significant contribution in the field of Prakrit language & Literature.

Octogenarian Ācārya Shri Sagarmal Jain ji stood tall and unique among contemporary scholars of eminence. Born to learn and teach a generation of saints & scholars, house holders and the recluse, he kept alive Jinavani. Parsvanatha Research Centre, Varanasi, his dream child, where he served as a director for 18 years, is unique. With his demise, the Jain community has lost a precious gem. **Prakrit Times** pay heartfelt respects to Prof. Sagarmalji whose life and literary work has inspired us and we pledge to carry forward his work and prestigious legacy toward popularizing Jain Studies.

### Who lived life like saints despite being a Householder : Pt. Ratanlal Ji Benada

The great scholar of Karanayoga, the param Gurubhakta Pandit Ratanlal Ji Benada Sahab died at 9 am on August 16, 2020. Shraddheya Pt. Benada Ji, a scholar of Jainism, made a unique contribution to the Jain world. No person is said to have 'Lakshmi and Saraswati' sons together, but Pt. Benada ji was united with both. Not only this, Pt. Benada ji was a unique confluence of knowledge and character in the Guru tradition. Who had no ego. Who lived a simple and restrained life. While serving Jinwani, you carried forward the 'Shramana Sanskriti Sansthan, Sangner' as a son.



For the past several years, he was using his time to spread the knowledge of Jivani, organize workshops and prepare Jain literature and make it available according to the people of all ages. While living in the household life, like the sage-saints, he lived life with minimum needs. **Prakrit Times** pay heartfelt respects to Shraddheya Pt. Benada ji.

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