



PRAKRIT TIMES

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

EDITOR : DR. ARIHANT KUMAR JAIN

‘गमो जिगाणं’

"We are very happy to tell you that the publication of 'PRAKRIT TIMES' Newsletter (in English) is being started to promote India's 'Ancient Prakrit Language' worldwide and to awaken people towards it. I hope that I will get all your blessings and capable support in this work. Thank You"

"Prakrit Language needs to be Established Internationally"



– H.H. Swastishri Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swami Ji

Along with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Jagadguru Karmyogi Swastishri Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swami Ji of Shravanabelagola's abbot initiation, under the joint aegis of Mysore University and Kannada University, the 'International Prakrit Samavesh' held in the Senate Auditorium of the University of Mysore. Inaugurating Seminar the world-famous Shaiva Dharma Peethadheesh, Suttur Desikendra Mahaswamy, in his address said that "Prakrit language had the distinction of Rajbhasha and Lokbhasha during the time of Before Christ. In later times, many Jain dynasties have inscribed the edicts in inscriptions in this language". Bhattarak Bhuvanakirti Swami of Kanakagiri said, 'Lord

Bahubali is described as a peace messenger' in the national poet Kampu's poetry'.

Speaking as the keynote speaker at the International Prakrit Inclusion Seminar, Bhattarak Swastishri Karmayogi Jagadguru Charukirti Bhattarak Swami of Shravanabelagola said that research is a beautiful opportunity to highlight our educational talent. He said that - "Prakrit language needs to be established internationally."

Presiding over the seminar, Vice-Chancellor of University of Mysore Prof. G. Hemant Kumar Highlighting the Shatkhandagam Granth, and said that, 'Shatkhandagam is the highest and most ancient sacred scripture of the Digambara Jain community'. Vice-Chancellor of Kannada University Prof. S. C. Ramesh said that today Prakrit, along with Pali, Sanskrit is the oldest language and the mother of all ancient languages. President Awardee Prof. Phoolchand Jain Premi said in his statement that "Although Prakrit language is ancient, it still has that nectar element, which gives innovation to all Indian languages.

Several speakers spoke at the seminar including Chief Convenor Dr. HampaNagarajah (Bangalore), Pro. Ramakant Shukla (Delhi), Prof. Prem Suman Jain (Udaipur), Dr. Jayakumar Upadhyay (Delhi), Prof. Ashok Kumar Jain (Roorkee), Shri Swaraj Ji Jain (Times, Delhi) and Poland's Katte Kragh. On this occasion Prakrit, Sanskrit Research Scholars from various places as well as Vinod Bakliwal of Mysore and other dignitaries of Mysore Jain society were present.



French Scholar asks "Why 'Prakrit' hasn't got Classical Status yet!"



The scholar from Sorbonne Nouvelle University- Paris 3, Prof. Nalini Balbir said "Prakrit in all its various forms was the language of the common people and it had been an integral part of social life and polity for centuries. Six Indian languages — Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odiya — have been given classical language status, but, surprisingly, Prakrit has not figured in the debate on classical languages", said Nalini Balbir, French Indologist.

"Many great works of Jain and Buddhist philosophy are in Prakrit. Despite its significant contribution to the Indian literary heritage, at one point the language was projected as 'popular', while Sanskrit, another ancient language, continued to gain recognition, Prakrit was sidelined," she said.

In recent years, the language has been receiving attention, with a few universities in India and abroad offering courses in Prakrit studies. Young scholars of Japan have developed an interest in Prakrit studies and Jainology. "Many young scholars in Japan and Russia are into Prakrit studies. Kundakunda's (Jain Ācārya) works in Prakrit have seen Russian translation. In Japan, a few scholars have written on Prakrit and Jain studies," she added. (News courtesy – The Hindu)

EDITORIAL....



Prakrit language is the language of India. It has been popular as Commons Language or folk language. There has been a rich literature of this folk language 'Prakrit', without which the study of Indian society and culture remains incomplete. A diverse and large literature is available in Prakrit. It has also been the language of inscriptions. Hathigumpha Inscriptions, Nashik Inscriptions, Ashoka inscriptions are in the Prakrit language itself. Vakpatirāj states in **Gaudvaho** -

सयलाओ इमं वाया विसंति, एत्तो य णेंति वायाओ ।
एंति समुद्ध चियं णेंति सायराओ च्चिय जलाइं ॥

(sayalāo imam vāyā visanti, aetto ya nenti vaayāo /

Aenti samuddha chiyam nenti sāyarāo cchiya jalāin //)

"All languages enter the Prakrit language itself and all languages originate from the Prakrit language. This happens in the same way that all waterfalls into the sea and comes out of the sea".

Being the lingua franca (Lok Bhasha), it has diverse forms. Prakrit languages like Magadhi, Ardhamagadhi, Shaurseni, Maharashtra, Paishachi, etc. were used in these forms. Prakrit has been used in Sanskrit plays too, in which Shaurseni, Magadhi and Maharashtra have been used more. The plays of Bhasa, Kalidas, Bhavabhuti, etc. are witnesses to this. In their plays educated sages, kings, etc. use Sanskrit language and queen, clown, dancer, gatekeeper, all-female characters and common people communicate their thoughts in the Prakrit language. Despite being the progenitor of multiple spoken languages, Prakrit does not enjoy as exalted a position as Sanskrit.

Dr. Neria H. Hebbar wrote in his article 'Language and Architecture of Ancient India' that "Prakrit was the

spoken language of India for almost a thousand years between Lord Mahaveera & Buddha Period to the Gupta Period. The language of the edicts of Ashoka's time was in Prakrit. Prakrit had several regional dialects. The script of the Prakrit language may be similar to the Harappa scripts, though those scripts have not been deciphered. There are visual resemblances between the two scripts.

Prakrit is the capital language in Jain Literature, but considering the types of Prakrit, Digambar Agam literature is in Shaurseni Prakrit, while Shwetambara Agam literature is in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit. These names of Prakrit are derived from being used in a particular area.

This is a small effort to connect you with Prakrit, to introduce you to the rich tradition of this ancient language, to awaken you to it, to attract the attention of the Government of India, to take steps towards enrichment of this ancient Indian language that they will preserve and promote it, at the government level. So that this Prakrit language can regain its rich form.

Through each issue of this magazine, we will try to present :

1. The Prosperous tradition of Prakrit language through Articles of Renowned Prakrit Scholars.
2. Introduction to the Acharyas of Prakrit Agamas,
3. The meanings of the Prakrit Gatha's written in Prakrit Agamas
4. Introduction of Books & Scholars who have made a significant contribution in the field of Prakrit language and literature
5. News related to conservation and promotion activities of Prakrit language going on in India and abroad.

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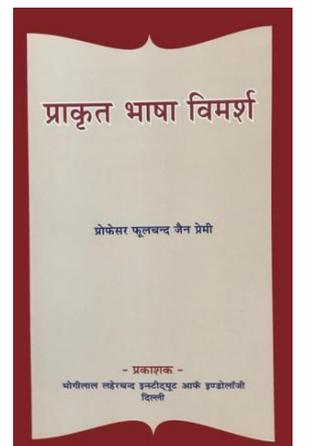
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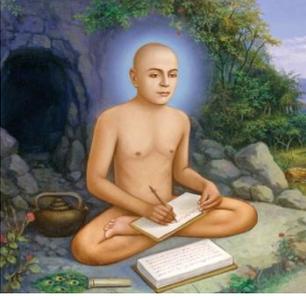
Book Introduction: 'Prakrit Bhasha Vimarsh'

"Prakrit Bhasha Vimarsh" (*Prakrit Language Deliberation*), 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. Phoolchand Jain Premi, Varanasi. Related to all kinds of Prakrit languages and their literature and various information related to it, such a book was a necessity for a long time, written in simple language and concise.

This book has been prepared for the initial introduction of Prakrit Language and keeping in mind the requirements of inquisitive scholars, students, etc., who are interested in ancient Indian languages and their history. In which, the general knowledge of this subject, the introduction, and the characteristics of various Prakrit languages, history, and the available literature including various topics have been presented pointedly.

This book is published from Bhogilal Laherchand Institute of Indology, Delhi, where Prof. Premi Ji has rendered his significant services as a conscientious and proficient Director. This is a significant, introductory book of Prakrit prepared with the utmost care, assiduity and diligence on the nature and importance of Prakrit language, which will help increase people's interest and knowledge towards Prakrit language and literature and will also prove to be very useful for the students preparing for competitive exams like 'NET' in this subject.



Introduction of Ācārya - 1**Ācārya Kundkunda**

Acharya Kundakunda is considered the Acharya Ratna of the first century of Vikram. Following in the lineage of Tirthankara Śri Mahāvira and Śri Gautama Ganadhara, many great Ācāryas have devoutly sustained and illuminated the Jaina tradition. Amongst

them, Ācāryas Kundkunda occupies a very important, leading and eminent position. His works are highly revered and they hold an influential position in Jaina tradition. His thoughts influenced the entire Indian philosophical traditions.

Because of his unique contribution to developing a new line of Philosophical and Spiritual thinking which had a great influence on Jaina (Digambara) tradition; he is held in high respect and is revered along with Mahāvira and Gautama as can be seen from the Māngalika Sloka recited by Jainas -

मंगलं भगवन्वीरो मंगलं गौतमो गणी ।

मंगलं कुन्दकुन्दाद्यौ जैनधर्मोऽस्तु मंगलम् ॥

This had so salutary effect all through that Ācāryas Kundakunda is not only held in high respect and reverence, his āmnaya has remained in fact and authentic. All members of the Sangha follow and get inspired by his writings and precepts.

Literary Works :

Precepts and philosophy of Bhagavāna Mahāvira were passed on by Ganadharas to their disciples orally in form of Dvādaśāṅga – twelve Angas. But as the memory power started weakening day-by-day, this Śruta tradition started falling apart, Scholars in those days kept away from writing as this facility was not known then. But Ācārya Kundakunda took to writing and created very precious liter-

गाथा - 1

इंदसद-वंदियाणं तिहुअण - हिद - मधुर - विसद - वक्काणं ।

अंतातीद- गुणाणं णमो जिणाणं जिद भवाणं ॥ 1 ॥

(Indsad-Vandiyāṇam Tihuaṇa-Hid-Madhur-Visad-Vakkanam .

Antāteed – Gunāṇam, Namo Jināṇam Jid Bhavanam)

- Pañcāstikāya

Obeisance to Jinas, possessed of attributes infinite, the conquerors who are beyond the influences of transmigration, worshipped by the hundreds of Indras; revealers of the clear, sweet, and three-world-beneficial Word.

Commentary

The Three Lokas are Urdhva (upper), Madhyama (middle), and Adhah (lower). The Word is called beneficial because it enables the people of the three worlds to realize their pure and perfect self. It is sweet because it draws towards itself the hearts of the faithful and the wise. It is called clear because it is free from a defect such as doubt, or self-contradiction, etc.

One who is worshipped by such Indras in Samosarana is certainly deserving of worship by the ordinary mortals. The reference shows the glory of Jina

ature in then prevailing Saurseṇi Prākṛta language of that era.

It is believed that Āc. Kundakunda has written 84 (Eighty-Four) books but presently only following books are available - 1) Pañcāstikāya (2) Samayasāra (3) Pravacanasāra (4) Niyamasāra (5) AṣṭaPāhuda (collection of eight Jewels – DarśanaPāhuda, CaritraPāhuda, SuttaPāhuda, BodhaPāhuda, BhāvaPāhuda, MokkhāPāhuda, SilaPāhuda, and lingaPāhuda) (6) BārasAnuvekkha (Twelve Anuprekāsas) (7) Rayanasāra (8) Bhakti Samgaho.

There is a difference among the scholars about the authorship of Rayanasāra, Many scholars present proofs for the Authorship of Āc. Kundakunda. It is believed that a masterpiece of Tamil-Veda, Tirukkural is also authored by Kundakunda. Āc. contributed to the development of Śauraseni Prākṛta language by its liberal use for his works.

Impact :

Ācārya Kundakunda has given a new and original thought to Indian Rationalism by framing spiritual, philosophical and moral texts. His classic literature contains such mystic contemplation that it has a far deep impact.

His literary works are so well formulated that it had its impact on the writings of Ācāryas Amritacandra of 10th Century, his successor ĀcāryasJayasena, Ācāryas Srutasagar, Maladhāri Hemachanda, Kannada philosopher Bālacandra, Pandit Jayacandaji Chāvada, and many others. made offered their interpretation of the his literature moreover they were also motivated to become a wanderer on the path of spirituality and the guiding lamp to the thousands of people. They made offered their interpretation of his literature moreover they were also motivated to become a wanderer on the path of spirituality and the guiding lamp to the thousands of people.

His works and their critiques from 16th Century to date have been abundantly discussed, and have inspired many leading lights are mainly Pandit Banarasidāsa, Pandit Rājmal, Pandit Jayacandaji Chāvada, etc. and many saints and learned personalities of in 20th Century.

Legendary Scholars of Prakrit & Jainology - 1**Dr. Hiralal Jain (1898-1973)**

Renowned Scholar of Jainism and Prakrit Language. Born in Gangai, Madhya Pradesh, he received an M.A. from ALLAHABAD University in 1925, where he studied Sanskrit and Prakrit Languages. He was appointed assistant professor at king Edward college, Amaravati. He was awarded a D.Litt. from Nagpur University in 1944 and become a professor at Morris College, Nagpur.

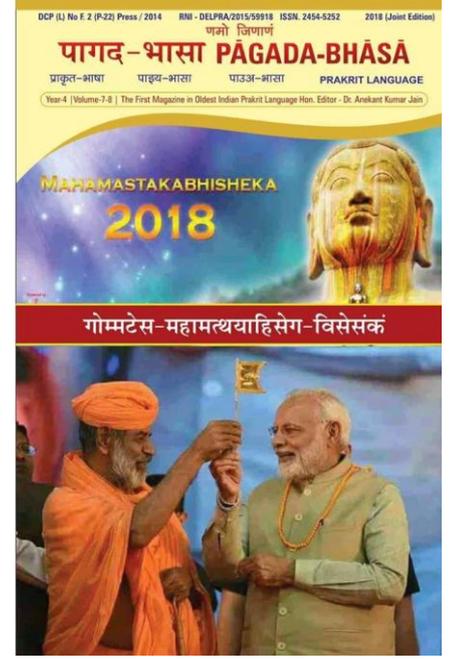
He was a founder director of the Post-Graduate and Research Institute of Prakrits and Jainology at Muzaffarpur from 1955 to 1960 which is presently known as Vaishali Research Institute, situated at Vaishali. He was head of the Department of Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit at Jabalpur University from 1961 until his retirement in 1969. Along with A. N. Upadhye, he edited several classical Digambar texts, including the **Satkhandagama**. He is the author of '**Bhartiya Samskriti me Jain Dharm ka Yogdaan**' (*Contributions of Jainism to Indian Culture*). He also wrote numerous articles on Jain Philosophy, History and Literature.

Which is the World's first Newspaper to be published in Ancient Prakrit Language?

Currently, in many competitive examinations, questions are also being asked that "Which is the first newspaper to be published in Ancient Prakrit language"? and the Answer is 'Pagad-Bhasa'. Yes 'PAGAD BHASA' is the first newspaper to be published in the Prakrit language which is registered in the newspaper office of the Government of India. It has both RNI and ISSN numbers. Its founding editor, Dr. Anekant Kumar Jain, who is the Head of the Jain philosophy department at the Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in New Delhi, and has been conferred with the President's Yuva Puraskar by the President for his valuable work.

With the inspiration of his father, Renowned Prakrit & Jainism Scholar, President Awardee Prof. Phoolchand Jain Premi and through his irresistible efforts to save the ancient splendor of the Prakrit language and to promote this language, he made the debut of 'Pagad Bhasa' magazine, which emerged as the world's first Prakrit Magazine. This historical and innovative newspaper was launched on 13 April 2014. Its first look was designed on the holy day of Mahavir Jayanti and was released by Acharya Vidyand Muniraj and Acharya Vardhmanasagar Ji Maharaj Ji's holy companions in Kundakunda Bharati, New Delhi. Its first issue was published in January 2015.

Since then, 10 issues have been published which are collectible. Its biggest issue was joint as Gomatesh Mahamastakabhisheka special on the occasion of Mahamastakabhisheka held at Shravanabelagola in 2018. All its issues can also be read on its Facebook page and blog. This newspaper is being published from JIN Foundation, New Delhi. You can read all previous issues and upcoming issues on <http://hyperurl.co/jainpatrika> also.



Prakrit & Jainology Studies in Indian Universities and Institutions

(For M.A., Āchārya, Ph.D. & Short Term Courses)

- Dept. Of Prakrit and Jainagam & Dept. Of Jain Philosophy, Shraman Vidya Sankaaya, Sampurnanad Sanskrit University, Varanasi
- Dept. Of Jain Philosophy , Sanskrit Dharm Vigyan Sankayaa, Banaras Hindu University , Varanasi.
- Dept. Of Jainology, University of Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka
- Dept. Of Jainology, University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Dept. Of Jainology and Prakrit, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan
- Chair for Jain Studies, J. R.Sanskrit. University, Jaipur
- Dept. Of Jain Philosophy, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Jaipur Campus & Bhopal Campus
- Dept. Of Prakrit & Dept. Of Jainology Comparative religion and Philosophy, Jain Vishva Bharti University, Ladnun (Rajasthan)
- Dept. Of Prakrit Language & Dept. of Jain Philosophy, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya, Sanskrit, Vidyapeeth, New Delhi
- Jain Anushilan Kendra, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur
- Centre for Jain Studies, Teerthankar Mahaveer University, Moradabad, U.P.
- Dept. Of Jain Philosophy, Jain University, Bangalore
- Dept. Of Prakrit, Kunwar Singh University, Aara, Bihar
- Dept. Of Prakrit & Sanskrit, S.D. Jain College, Aara, Bihar
- Dept. of Prakrit, Magadh University, Gaya, Bihar
- Deptt of Prakrit and Jainism, Vaishali Institute, Govt. of Bihar, Vaishali.
- Chair for Jain Religious Studies, Dept. of Religion, Panjabi University, Patiyala, Panjab
- Dept. of Jain and Prakrit Studies, Sanchi University, Sanchi, M.P.
- Deptt for Jain Studies, Siddharth University, Siddharth Nagar, Gorakhpur, U.P.
- Chair for Jain Studies, University of Bhuvneshwar, Bhuvneshwar, Odisha
- Deptt of Jainology and Prakrit, University of Pune, Pune
- Jain Chair, Deptt of Philosophy, University of Mumbai, Mumbai
- Jain Study Centre, Somaiyya University, Vidya Vihar, Mumbai
- International School for Jain Studies(ISJS), New Delhi
- National Institute of Prakrit Studies & Research, Shravanavelagola, Karnatka
- Dept. of Prakrit, Balchand College, Solapur (MH)
- Mahaveer Chair, Kolhapur (MH)
- Dept. Sanskrit and Prakrit Studies, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan
- Deptt of Prakrit Studies, Gujrat University, Ahmedabad
- Deptt of Jain Philosophy, Syadvad Mahavidyalaya, Varanasi
- Deptt of Prakrit and Jainagam & Deptt of Jain philosophy, Shri Digambar Jain Acharya Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Sanganer, Jaipur
- L.D. Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad
- Parshwanath Vidyapeeth Research Institute, Varanasi
- B.L. Institute of Indology, Delhiso on and so forth / etc.

If we have missed any of the University/Institution related to the education of Prakrit and Jainism Studies in this list or if there is any modification, kindly inform us at : prakrittimes@gmail.com

To,

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