



# PRAKRIT TIMES

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

EDITOR : DR. ARIHANT KUMAR JAIN

‘णमो जिणाणं’

Happy Akshaya Tritiya to All, Thank you so much for this Positive, Encouraging and Overwhelming response for "Prakrit Times". It means a lot to this little effort. I hope 'PRAKRIT TIMES' continues to receive your Guidance and Blessings even further.

## happy akshaya tritiya



**One Anna coin issued by the British Indian Government  
in the year 1818 on the occasion of Jain festival of Akshay Tritiya**

**The coin depicts Tirthankar Rishabhdev  
accepted sugarcane juice from king Shreyans  
and breaking his one year fast**

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## Grand Release of "Prakrit Times" Newsletter in Various Academic Institutions of India



'Prakrit Times' Newsletter was grandly released in many Academic Institutions and Universities of the country. Firstly it was released at Holy Place Ahimsa Sthal, New Delhi in front of Bhagwan Mahaveer in the presence of Renowned Scholars like Prof. Veersagar Jain, Prof. Anekant Kumar Jain, Dr. Indu Jain Rashtragaaurav and many eminent personalities of Jain Samaj. Where everyone applauded this introduction of 'Prakrit Times' with one voice. After the release, everyone congratulated the editor Dr. Arihant Kumar Jain for 'Prakrit Times' and also praised his efforts.

Prakrit Times also released by Uttar Pradesh Jain Vidya Shodh Sansthan, Culture Department, Lucknow U.P. in the presence of several dignitaries. This was done on the occasion of a seminar on the topic "Ahimsa our National Culture" at the International Buddhist Institute's Auditorium on the 29th foundation day of the Institute. The chief guest of this seminar, Presidential Awardee Prof. Phoolchanda Jain Premi said that the true nature of non-violence was reflected in Indian culture. This is why India became a world guru. He said that India has thousands of languages and dialects. Among them, ancient Indian languages like Prakrit, Sanskrit, Apabhramsha have their own special importance. These languages are the soul of Indian culture and literature. Prakrit is basically the language of folklife and folk culture, which we have to re-establish in its rich form.



Distinguished Guest Prof. Vijay Kumar Jain said that cleanliness is a symbol of non-violence. On this occasion, President of the Music Academy, Dr. Purnima Pandey, Distinguished Guest Prof. Sudha Jain, Dr. Dharamchand Jain also expressed their views. Prof. Abhay Kumar Jain, Vice President of Uttar Pradesh Jain Research Institute, praised Dr. Arihant Kumar Jain's efforts to bring awareness to Prakrit language in the form of "Prakrit Times Newsletter" and said that our invaluable heritage is endorsed in our ancient scriptures, which is in Prakrit Language. At the same time, he said in his presidential speech, that 'vegetarianism and compassion on living beings are the direct forms of non-violence, these are national rites, this is the basic mantra of world peace...[the rest on page 9](#)

## The University Inaugurated 'Acharya Gokulchand Jain Samvadashala' in the name of the Renowned Prakrit Scholar

It is a matter of pride for all the scholars of Prakrit language and Jainism and for the Jain society that the 'Samvadashala' (S.S.V.V.) in the name of Prof. Gokul Chand Jain, the Renowned scholar of Prakrit & Jainology, was inaugurated by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Mrs. Anandiben Patel on the occasion of the convocation at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi on 5/12/2019. Presidential Awardee Prof. Gokulchand Jain was one of the prominent scholars who edited and translated many Jain manuscripts composed in Prakrit and Sanskrit language. Prof. Jain has served as the former head of the Prakrit and Jainagam department and former dean of the Faculty of Shraman Vidya in the same university. His son Prof. Rajnish Jain is serving as the Secretary & Chief Visionary Officer (C.V.O) of University Grants Commission, New Delhi. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rajaram Shukla has set an example by naming the building after the name of a Jain Scholar of Prakrit.





## EDITORIAL....



First of all my heartfelt thanks to all of you learned readers for expressing love, enthusiasm and blessings to the "Prakrit Times". I am happy that greetings and good wishes are coming from all over the world to start the publication of "Prakrit Times Newsletter", more than I had even imagined. Renowned professors of philosophy and language from various universities in the country and abroad have said that - "Prakrit Times" published in English has filled a huge gap in the field of Prakrit language and literature. This publication has served as a bridge between Indian and Western countries, which will help in the promotion and propagation of the Prakrit language at the international level. I want to express my acknowledgment and gratitude to all the scholars who benefited me with many important suggestions with blessings and best wishes.

As a follower of **Lord Mahavira**, it is our duty to bring the "Prakrit language" to the whole world just like his principles. Because Prakrit language was the medium of the preaching of Lord Mahavira. According to one of the Jain scriptures Tirthankara (Mahavira) preached in Ardha-Magadhi Prakrit language. He used Ardha-Magadhi Prakrit, the lingua-franca of that period for his discourses.

Lord Mahavira knew that language is an instrument for the expression of emotions and the propagation of knowledge. Therefore, if the medium of his discourses is chosen as 'Janbhasha Prakrit', which is the language of the common people, then it will benefit all sections of the general public. It will be worthwhile. That is why instead of Sanskrit, he made 'Janbhasha Prakrit' the medium of his teachings. He preached in an eloquent and attractive style. This is a mixture of fifty percent language of the Magadh region and fifty percent of other regions.

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There are 34 special attributes (atishaya) of the Tirthankaras. Their Speech gets converted to a language which gets understood by all living beings present in the Samavasarana and can understand the discourse. People sitting on all four sides have the feeling that the Tirthankara is facing them. A place where all have a common opportunity of acquiring the wisdom.

Today we are celebrating the 2619<sup>th</sup> Janma Kalyanak (birth) of Lord Mahavira, who taught the idea of the supremacy of human life and stressed the importance of the positive attitude of life. His message of nonviolence (Ahimsa), truth (Satya), non-stealing (Achaurya), celibacy (Brahma-charya), and non-possession (Aparigraha) is full of universal compassion.

Lord Mahavir also preached the gospel of universal love, emphasizing that all living beings, irrespective of their size, shape, and form how spiritually developed or under-developed, are equal and we should love and respect them. Mahavir was more of a reformer and propagator of an existing religious order than the founder of a new faith.

In the matters of spiritual advancement, as envisioned by Mahavir, both men and women are on an equal footing. Mahavir preached that the right faith (samyak darshana), right knowledge (samyak jnana), and right conduct (samyak charitra) together is the real path to attain the liberation from the karmic matter of one's self.

Today the whole world is going through an invisible war with a virus named Corona. In this lockdown, everything is stopped except time. But over time this epidemic will go away, I pray that. By following the principles of Lord Mahavira, and by self-restraint, it can be overcome. I also want to salute those Corona warriors who are doing their duty by serving in such difficult conditions. Take care of yourself, Be Aware, Stay Safe and Happy Akshaya Tritiya to all of you.

**Dr. Aarihant Kumar Jain 'Anuraagi'**

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## Book Introduction: 'Prakrit Primer'

The book – "**Prakrit Primer**" by a renowned scholar of Prakrit Language & Literature, Presidential Awardee - **Prof. Prem Suman Jain**; deals with the Prakrit language, its various uses, Prakrit Poetry and Prose Literature, Its cultural significance and an account of prominent Prakrit philosophers poets in nutshell, but an authentic and lucid style. It was Jointly published by Bahubali Prakrit Vidyapeeth, National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research, Shravanabelagola and Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi. Prof. Jain's also earlier published **PRAKRIT SWAYAM SHIKSHAK** (in Hindi), designed to be used in conjunction with Prakrit Learning Manual and independently by the common reader, is an excellent monograph on the history of Prakrit, it impacts on Indian literature and modern Indian languages.

The founder of Bahubali Prakrit Vidyapeeth, His Holiness Jagadguru Karmayogi Swasthishri Charukeerthy Bhattaraka Mahaswamiji of Shravanabelagola aim to establish the significance of Prakrit and to make its literature available to the general public. It is also a matter of great pleasure that the enlarged and revised English edition of the monograph 'Introduction to Prakrit Literature' of Dr. Jain was published from this Institution (NIPSAR) as its first publication for the benefit of English readers, edited by Dr. Jayendra Soni (Germany) in 1993. Now the revised edition of this book is published as 'Prakrit Primer'.



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

**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. 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

**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. 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 this new responsibility.  
Renowned Prakrit Scholar (Presidential Awardee)

**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. Phoolchand Jain Premi, Former Director, B.L. Institute of Indology, Delhi**



Dear Son, I am happy and proud that you are devoted to our tradition and are trying to take it to new dimensions. May 'Prakrit Times' succeeds in its objectives, with these best wishes, a lot of blessings.  
(Presidential Awardee), Former Head, Dept. of Jainology, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi

**Prof. Mukulraj Mehta, Head, Dept. of Philosophy & Religion, B.H.U., Varanasi**



This is a unique and wonderful service dedicated to the Oriental language. Keep it up. Best Wishes  
Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

**Prof. Jagat Ram Bhattacharyya, 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—a thought, heritage, and culture to the world through your publication. I wish your endeavor should achieve its success.  
Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit Bhasa-Bhavana, West Bengal, India

**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. Meenal Katarnikar, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai**



Preservation of our Ancient languages is our duty, I am proud, Dr. Arihant fulfills this responsibility through 'Prakrit Times' with full enthusiasm, as well as more youth should take inspiration from it.  
Director, Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Mumbai

**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

## Why Read Prakrit Language?

**Prof. Kamalchand Sogani**



It is well known that Prakrit Language is the basic language of Jain philosophy and its scriptures. It is the deliverance of Lord Mahavira, which is the common man's language. It is not possible for the seeker of Jain's philosophy to get authentic knowledge of Agam without knowing the Prakrit language.

Jain scholars should be proficient in the Prakrit language in order to assimilate Jain scriptures. It is a matter of happiness that today students and scholars are studying Sanskrit and English for various reasons, but unfortunately, they are not interested in reading Prakrit. It is a very thoughtful situation.

It is expedient to say that students and scholars should become masters in English and Sanskrit, but they should not leave Prakrit, the language of Tirthankara Mahavir. It is worth noting here that people who do not have knowledge of English and Sanskrit can successfully read Prakrit which is the language of masses. Now such a method of teaching Prakrit has been developed, by which any-one can learn Prakrit through Hindi and English, so they should not forget to read Prakrit when they get the opportunity. More and more people should read Prakrit. Leaving the opportunity is to reduce the number of Prakrit readers. This is said to create a barrier in protecting the culture.

In this way, both those who know Sanskrit and English and those who do not know - can learn knowledge of Prakrit in a short time by reading Prakrit with the new method. If they will stop reading Prakrit, then the day is not far when all our original scriptures will not be the user and we will begin to think of them as futile and burdensome, just as our children consider it futile and burdensome to protect manuscripts.

**(Prof. Sogani is Honored by Presidential Award 2019 for his significant contribution in the Field of Prakrit Language and Literature)**

## Apabhransh Sahitya Academy: An Introduction

With the increasing global influence, a lot of old Indian languages are loosing out to Western languages. Prakrit, an old Indian language used by the mass, is one such casualty. To save this language from being out of use, Digamber Jain Atishaya Kshetra, Shree Mahaveerji, a Jain organization, established a Prakrit-Apabhransh Sahitya Academy at Bhattarak Nasiyan near Narayan Singh Circle in Jaipur in 1988.

According to Dr. Kamal Chand Sogani, a retired philosophy professor of Udaipur University and the man behind founding the academy, it is the country's only academy, where Prakrit & Apabhransh is being taught.

The courses are tailored especially to the needs of foreign students and new textbooks have been published by the academy to teach these languages in English. A unique feature is that the courses and books require no prior knowledge of Sanskrit, thereby making the material highly accessible even to the beginner student.

The Prakrits (including Shauraseni, Ardhamagadhi, and Maharashtri) and Apabhramsa are essential languages for reading the vast corpus of Jain scriptures and later Prakrit and Apabhramsa texts. They are also helpful compan-

Surprisingly, we want to read and understand Kashyapahud and Shatkhanda, Acharang, and Dasvaikalik, but we are indifferent to their language. Please tell us how can we express our gratitude and devotion to that great Acaryas? How will there be Pravachana - Bhakti, and Devotion to Scriptures? Is not this belief reasonable, that reading and teaching Prakrit, the language of Agam, is devotion to Mahavira? If the followers of Shramana Mahavira do not understand the importance of the language of Lord Mahavira, then what is the meaning of being a follower? Will this not stagger the base of the Shramana Culture?

Hence, if we consider the teaching and learning of Prakrit language important, then Mahavira Vani will be saved. When the Prakrit language disappears due to lack of studies, not only Jain culture, there will be a big loss of entire Indian culture. Prakrit literature is very large, what will happen to it? Unawareness of Prakrit will beautify a museum, not a culture. Lord Mahavira's culture will be saved only by becoming Conversant with Prakrit language, otherwise not. For the common man, it is the Prakrit scholar who should translate the original works of Prakrit into Hindi and English. This will inspire to read Prakrit. Remember, the forget Prakrit language is to forget Jain culture, the disappearance of its vital and sententious existence. Not only this but in the absence of Prakrit language, not only India but the world community will be deprived of the distinguished and remarkable values of Jain culture.

Therefore, the society and the state should encourage the study of the Prakrit language and make necessary arrangements for its study. Without Prakrit, culture, pilgrimage, art, etc., nothing will be safe. All of this will be easily achieved with the promotion of the Prakrit language. This requires serious attention.

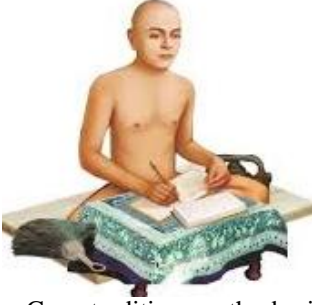
ion-languages for studying other types of literature written in Indian vernaculars, such as the Buddhist Pali texts, Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit works, the various passages in Prakrit occurring in Indian drama-texts, Hindi literature, or texts written in the many other North Indian vernaculars.

The academy also offers certificate and diploma correspondence courses in Prakrits and Apabhramsa for Hindi speakers. Now over countless students from different parts of the country are learning the languages through correspondence, says Prof. Sogani, who is also the honorary director of the academy.

According to him, 'Prakrit language was in India from Vedic times and it was the mother tongue of Lord Mahaveera and Gautam Buddha. With the change of time, a new language, Apabhransh, came into existence in the form of a local language, which literally means "a language used in routine"

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**Introduction of Ācārya - 2****Ācārya Gunadhar Swami**

In the tradition of Shrutadhar Acharyas, the name of the great Acharyashree Gunadhar Dev is first taken with great respect. In the Digambara tradition, the texts written in Shaurseni Prakrit are written, Acharya Gunadhar is the one who gives the first scripture. We do not know the

Guru tradition on the basis of Acharya Gunadhar, because neither we have found any account of it nor any sage. Indranandi's Shrutavatar, Nandisingh's Shauraseni Prakrit Pattavali, and Jayadhavala Teeka, etc. have descriptions of Acharya Gunadhar and his earlier tradition. Scholars have accepted the time of Gunadharacharya as the pre-century of Vikram. He is the predecessor of Acharya Dharsen and Acharya Kundakunda. He is considered as a contemporary of Arhadwali Sanghanayaka. Though his exact introduction is not available today, his greatness is known only by his great work. As -

गुणधरधरसेनान्वयगुर्वोः पूर्वापरक्रमोऽस्माभिः ।

न ज्ञायते तदन्वयकथकागममुनिजनाभावात् ॥५१॥

Gunadharacharya is the first Sootrakar of the Digambara tradition. He has composed a book called 'Kasayapahood' in 180 Shaurseni Prakrit saga, which covers 16000 verse proof subjects. The authors call their stories as Sutra -

गाहासदे असीदे अत्थे पण्णरसधा विहत्तम्मि ।

वोच्छामि सुत्तगाहा जयि गाहा जम्मि अत्थम्मि ॥ -गा. 2

Kashyapahood is also known as Pejjadospahud. Kashaya (Passions) is the combined name of raga (attach-

ment) and dwesha (hatred). Therefore, the Prakriti (nature), Sthiti (duration), Anubhaga (intensity), and Pradesh (quantity); the four characteristics of the karma bandha (bondage of karmas) which is in the kashayas have been analyzed in this Kashyapahood. In short, it is the book of Karmasiddhanta, which has greatly influenced the later literature. Acharya Veerasen has written a huge commentary on this original book called 'Jayadhavala' in the 8th century. Choorni (Commentaries) etc. has also been written on it.

**Epigraphy :**

Listening to the divine sound of Lord Mahavira, Shri Gautamswami collected him from 'Dwadashangroop'. This Dwadashang Shrut was fully existing till the last Shrutakevali Shri Bhadrabahu Acharya, again the 'anga'(a group of twelve Jaina canonical texts) and 'poorvas'(A group of fourteen Jaina canonical texts, now extinct) gradually shrank and remained in a small form. Then, inspired by the spirit of protecting the scriptures, some Acharyas wrote it in a book form.

Sri Gunadharacharya had perfect knowledge of the third Pejjadospahud of the tenth content of the fifth 'Jnan Pravada Purva'. In this way, Gunadharacharya has created Kasayapahud, whose other and original name is Pejjadospahud. In this book, a detailed discussion of the different stages of the kashayas (passions) and the exclusion from them has been made, that is, the absence of which kashaya leads to the samyagdarshan (true spiritual insight), the kshayopsham (Dispositional gain after annihilation (Kshaya) and subsidence (Upsham) of karma) of which kashaya leads to the attainment of Desa Sanyam (Partially restrained) and Sakal Sanyam (Fully Restrained); By explaining this, the upshamana (Energy that temporarily prevents karmas from coming to fruition) and ksapana (Destruction) of kashayas has been done. This means that in this book, various castes of Kashayas have been told and the way to overcome them has been shown.

**गाथा - 2**

**Acharya Kundakunda defined 'Sramana' in his Pravachanasara text –**

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

“Samsattubandhuvaggo Samsuhadukkho pasansṇindasamo,  
Samloththakanchaṇo puṇa jēvidmaraṇe samo samaṇo”

*A monk who holds composure, who stays stable in friends and enemies, joy and sorrow, praise and blame, clay and gold and stays firm both in life and death is called Sramana.*

**Commentary**

Self-restraint (samyama) is conduct accompanied by enlightened (samyak) intuition and knowledge. Conduct is dhanrma; dharma is equanimity; equanimity is a state-of-evolution of the self devoid of infatuation (moha) and perturbation or mental agitation (kshobha). Therefore equanimity is a characteristic of the self-restrained.

So in regard to the two groups, enemy and friends, pleasure and pain, praise and blame, clay and gold, life and death, he is the same (sama).

He shows this self-restraint having a simultaneity of self-knowledge with a simultaneity of Scripture-knowledge, conviction in the principle and categories, and self-restraint to be identical with the path of liberation, otherwise called the sramana-state, characterized as mental-concentration.

## Legendary Scholars of Prakrit &amp; Jainology – 2

## Dr. A.N. Upadhye (1906-1973)



Dr. Adinath Neminath Upadhye was an eminent scholar of international repute in the field of Jainology, Prakrit, and Indology. He was almost a legend during his lifetime. In the course of his distinguished career spread over nearly 45 years, he distinguished himself as an authority on Jainology, Prakrit, and Indology. He brought out critical editions of several unpublished Sanskrit and Prakrit works with exhaustive introductions and notes. His service to the cause of Jainology and Prakrit studies and his pioneering work as the founder Professor and Head of the Post-Graduate Department of Studies and Research in Jainology and Prakrits at the University of Mysore were indeed laudable.

An eminent scholar and learned Professor of long-standing, Dr. Upadhye comes out of a traditional pious family. He passed M.A. in 1st Division in 1930 and received his D. Litt. from Bombay University in 1939. He was Springer Research Scholar from 1940-43. He has been a keen research student and teacher of Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Apabhramsa, history of Indian literature, Jainism and Indian philosophy. He has a working knowledge of Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, German and French.

He was Lecturer/Professor of Ardhamagadhi in Rajaram College, Kolhapur up to 1962 and later Professor Emeritus getting UGC to grant for superannuated teachers for research work. Since 1971 he is Professor of Jainology and Prakrit in Mysore University.

Son of Shri Nemanna Bhommanna Dr. Upadhye was born at Sadalga Distt. Belgaum in Karnataka State. A prolific writer, he has to his credit nearly 25 critical editions of Sanskrit and Prakrit works with introductions containing original research. More than 150 of his research papers have been published in different journals. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of Bharatiya Jnanpith. As General Editor of its Murti Devi Granthmala, he along with late Dr. Hira Lai Jain cooperated in the publication of vast Jain literature. He is Patron of Ahimsa International.

Dr. Upadhye has been President of Prakrit, Pali, Jainism, and Buddhism Section of All India Oriental Conference held at Hyderabad in 1946; General President of this Conference held at Aligarh in 1966 and General President of Kannada Sahitya Sammelan held at Sravanabelgola in 1967. He attended the International Congress of Orientalists at Canberra (Australia) in 1971 and at Paris in 1973 as an Indian Govt. delegate. He also visited France, Germany, and England in 1973 on the invitation of the Universities and institutions of those countries. He attended the World Conference of Religion and Peace held at Leuven in Belgium in 1974.

## Book Review : "The History of Shaurseni Prakrit Language and Literature"

Book titled 'The History of Shaurseni Prakrit Language and Literature' Written by **Dr. Indu Jain Rashtra Gaurav**, published from Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi as the eighth issue of 'Prakrit-Jainavidya-Granthamala'. Dr. Indu is the daughter of Prof. Phoolchand Jain Premi, who has been the former Head of Jain philosophy Department of this University. This large book of 484 pages is the only first book in itself, in which almost all the ancient proceeds of Shaurseni Prakrit language, in other words, Digambar Jain tradition and The history of the ancient scriptures, their detailed subject and the authoritative introduction of the authors of the text, along with their development has been widely evaluated and analyzed. Those seekers who do not get the opportunity to study the texts can understand the glory of those texts from the swadhyaya (self-study) of this book.

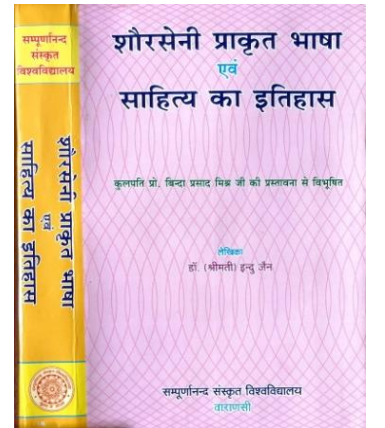
Substantially, this book is a useful research thesis of the Vidushi writer, on which the same university awarded her entitled with Vidyavaridhi (Ph.D.). From the perspective of the university, it proved to be such an excellent thesis in itself that the university felt its pride in publishing it. Not only this, but the book is also rewarded with the glorious 'Mahaveer Award' of the Jain world. This is the reason that the immediate Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan's and a renowned Sanskrit scholar, Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi Ji, has written in praise of this book that –

*"Until now, there was no treatise presenting a complete assessment of the origins, development, and literature of Shaurseni Prakrit. Vidushi Dr. Indu Jain has overcome this shortcoming by presenting this complete book through years of painstaking. In ten chapters of this treatise, a comprehensive contemplation of all aspects of Shaurseni Prakrit literary estate has been presented as a development journey of Shaurseni, which will prove to be an important link in the study and research of Prakrit language and literature".*

Similarly, many eminent scholars of the country have also praised this book. In this book, a detailed discussion of Shaurseni Prakrit Agamas and the linguistic study of that literature together with another Prakrit Literature is also done. Along with this, introduction to astrology, hymns, sattak, drama, and much other literature composed in Shaurseni Prakrit is also important. The book also mentions some Prakrit texts of the Digambara tradition, which few scholars are familiar with.

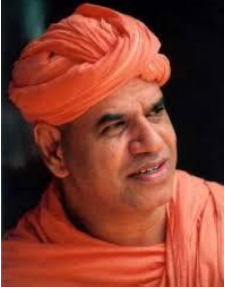
This book is not only very useful for the UGC NET and other competitive examinations for Prakrit language and literature, but in many aspects, it should be in the collection of all Jain temples, scripture stores, libraries, research institutes and self-respecting scholars of the country so that The public can become familiar and benefited from the huge tradition of this literature so that they can participate in the propagation.

(Reviewed by Dr. Arihant Kumar Jain)



## 50th Patthabhishek Divas 19th Apr 2020 : Parama Pujya Karmayogi Swasti Sri Chaarukirti Bhattaraka of Shravanabegola Jain Monastery, Karnataka

**The entire mankind is indebted to his selfless service for the last 50 years**



The incumbent pontiff of the Shravanabelagola Jain Mutt, Swasthishri Jagadguru Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swami ji has remained as head of the Mutt for 5 decades since he was appointed on April 19, 1970. He is the guiding force of the entire Jain Samaja & Jain Monastery in conducting religious, cultural, and educational activities. His great ability in converting religious programs into welfare programs meant for people has earned him accolades.



Sri Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swami “poorvashrama” (pre-ordination) home is situated at Varanga in Dakshina Kannada. He was born in a school’s teacher’s family on May 3, 1949, and is a scholar in Kannada, Sanskrit, and Prakrit. He is a holder of post-graduate degrees in history and philosophy from Mysuru and Bengaluru Universities. Austere and polite, the Swamiji has strived for the development of Shravanabelagola alongside religious activities. Since, 1970, the Bhattaraka Swamiji has successfully conducted Mahamastakabhisheka of 1981, 1993, 2006, and 2018. In 1981, he was honored with the title of “Karmayogi by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The Bhattaraka Swami ji long-cherished dream of establishing a **Prakrit University at Shravanabelagola** has been realized with the state government agreeing to set up the Prakrit University one of its kind in the whole world. To live up to the title of ‘Karmayogi’ bestowed upon him, the Bhattaraka swamiji has adopted several villages around Shravanabelagola for the purpose of promoting education. Through the Jain monetary, free eye check-up/treatment camps, a mobile hospital, building of tanks, and community centers have been initiated. An engineering college has been set up at Shravanabelagola where no donations or capitation fee is collected from students. An ayurvedic college, pharmacy college and polytechnic are functioning under the Jain Matha.

Prior to the Mahamastakabhishek 2018, All India Sanskrit Scholar Conference was organized from 7 to 9 June 2017 at Mangalacharan (Invocation), the first convening in a series of conferences organized with the inspiration of Pujya Swamiji. This grand event was accomplished by the Presidential Awardee Prof. Phoolchand Jain Premi, Varanasi; the chief convenor of the Conference. In which about 70 Renowned Sanskrit scholars from all over the country presented their research articles on 'The contribution of Jainacharyas in the development of Sanskrit Jain literature'. These included Vice Chancellors, Directors of many universities.

During the recent 2019 floods, Sri Bhattaraka Swamiji distributed food kits to lakhs of people. Through his notable accomplishments, H.H. Bhattaraka swamiji has simplified religion for the layman and opened several avenues where the preachings of the Tirthankars can be practiced. On this auspicious day, we pay our respects and obedience on his glory full 50 years of PATTHABHISHEK.

### Eternal Prakrit Quotes from Agama's: 'INNER PURITY'

**उदगरस्स फासेण सिया य सिद्धि, सिज्झंसु पाणा बहवे दगंसि । - Sutratkanga Sutra 1//7/14**

**“ Udagassa fasena siya ya siddhi, sijjhansu pana bahave dagansi”**

***If purity were possible with the touch of water (bathing), then many water-beings would have got liberated.***

### Prakrit Language and its Chronological Development

**Sramana Muni Aadityasagar Ji (Associated Ac. Vishuddhasagar Ji Maharaj)**



Prakrit has its own unique permanent place in the languages of ancient Indian literature. Actually, Prakrit is not a language but a name of a language cluster. Prakrit occupies a very important place in the development of Indian languages. Many languages of Punjabi, Rajasthani, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Bangla, Oriya, etc. have developed from 'Prakrit'. Prakrit has been the language of masses for ages. Even the philosophy preached by Lord Mahavira is considered in the Prakrit language itself.

The chronology of the Prakrit language is divided into three periods. First era (600 BC - 100 BC) - It includes Pali, Paishachi, Ardhamagadhi, Ashoka inscriptions, etc. languages. Second era (AD 100 - 600 AD) This includes 'Prakrit' of Kalidas, poetry, etc. Third era (AD 600 - 1200) - Apabhramsa language was developed in it. The appearance of “Prakrit” as a language name and the literature which it designates marks a major turning point in the cultural history of language in India. We refer to “Prakrit” to the language of a long-lived literary tradition.



**Continuity of Page 1.... 'Grand Release of 'Prakrit Times' Newsletter...**

Another release event of the Prakrit Times Newsletter is in CHAEN' 2020 (Centre for History, Archaeology, Epigraphy & Numismatics) held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February at the University of Mumbai in association with Sathaye College & Department of Archaeology CEMS-Mumbai. Prof. Meenal Katarnikar (Director, Center for Extra-Mural Studies) praising Prakrit Times and said that 'Preservation of our ancient languages is our duty, I am proud that my research student, Dr. Arihant, fulfills this responsibility with full enthusiasm, as well as more youth should take inspiration



from it. After this, Dr. Arihant introduced the objectives of the Prakrit Times to the scholars present there. In this context Prof. Syed E. Hussain ( President CHAEN 20), Dr. Prabodh Shirvalkar (Section President Archaeology), Dr. Manjari Bhalerao (Section President Epigraphy), Dr. Mohsina Mukadam (Section President History) Dr. Dileep Balsekar (Section President Numismatics) also expressed their views.

A two-day international seminar organized by the Hindi Department of Mumbai University and Mahakavi Jaishankar Prasad Foundation was held on 17 and 18 February at the Green Technology Auditorium. In the closing ceremony, the grand release of 'Prakrit Times' was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Vinod Tibdewal, Chancellor of JJT Vishwa Vidyalaya, with Dr. Sureshchandra Shukla Norve as the Chief Guest. In conclusion, Dr. Karunashankar Upadhyay, while explaining the importance of oriental Indian languages, appreciated the 'Prakrit Times' and thanked all the guests and scholars. About 250 scholars and students from worldwide attended this seminar.



Vice-Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, Hon. P.N. Shastri also said that oriental languages are indicative of the rich tradition of our country because our ancient scriptures are found in these languages. Prakrit Times can act as a pillar to reach it globally. Director of L.D. Institute of Indology, Prof. Jitu Bhai Shah particularly congratulated and encouraged Dr. Arihant. The Chancellor of Tirthankar Mahavir University was also congratulated on the 'Prakrit Times'. Similarly, in the Prakrit and Jainagam Department of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Prof. Jinendra Jain, Prof. Anekant Kumar Jain, Dr. Jyoti Babu, Dr. Sumat Jain also praised this effort by releasing 'Prakrit Times'



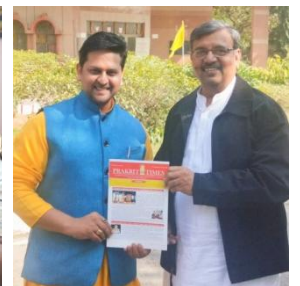
Mrs. Tara Gandhi  
(Gandhi Ji's Grand Daughter)



Padmavibhushan Pt. Jasraj Ji  
(Renowned Classical Singer)



Prof. Premsuman Jain  
(Renowned Prakrit Scholar)



Prof. Jitendra Bhai Shah  
(Director, L.D. Institute)



The Representatives of Interfaith Prayers at Gandhi Smriti Bhavan, New Delhi



Prof. R.K. Mudgal, Vice Chancellor, T.M.U  
with other Dignitaries



“ धम्मो मंगल-मुविकट्टं, अहिंसा संजमो तवो ।  
देवा वि तं नमंसंति, जस्स धम्मो सया मणो ” ॥



“The Heritage of ‘Prakrit Language’ is a valuable treasure of India, and the effort of ‘Prakrit Times’ to promote this legacy is Praiseworthy.”

With best Wishes

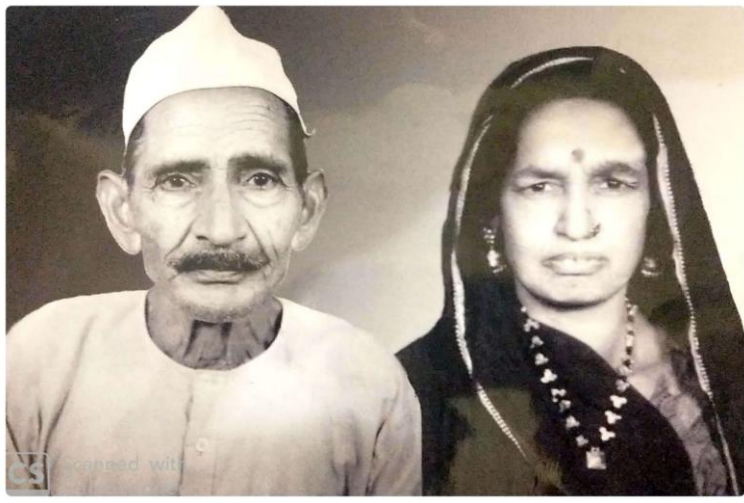
Vipin Jain  
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May your Memory be a Blessing

My Grand Father and Mother

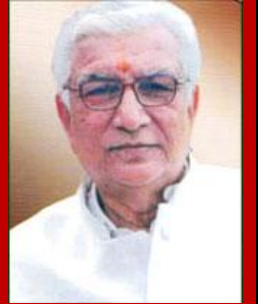
Late Shri Nemichand Singhai & Smt. Udyaitidevi,  
Dalpatpur, Distt. Sagar (M.P.)



WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

गमो जिणाणं

‘Prakrit’ is the Language of Lord Mahavira. “Prakrit Times” is a great beginning to Re-Introduce India's Ancient ‘Prakrit Language’ to the World.



Shri Nirmal Kumar Jain Sethi, New Delhi  
National President,  
Shri Bharatavarshiya Digamber Jain  
Mahasabha

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To,

Shri .....

Address .....

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