

CHAPTER-V

EMINENT LEADERS OF JAIN COMMUNITY IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

Chapter V

Eminent leaders of Jain Community in Kolhapur District

As Carlyle states that, “History is nothing but the Biography of Great men. There are great men born in every community. The great man’s life is not for themselves but for the welfare of the whole society.” Fortunately Jain community produced the great men right from beginning.

The 24 Tirthankaras of Jain community from Lord Rushabhanath Alias Adinath to Lord Mahavir were great luminaries and founder propagator and exponents of Jain Community. The last 24th Tirthankar, Lord Mahavir born in North India and his message came to south India by his followers.

Mahavir was followed by great disciples like Jambuswami, Bhadrabahu, Kundkundachrya, Samanbhadra and many other Acharya. They spread the principle of “Ahinsa” (i.e. non-violence) Kolhapur District was included in Kuntal Desa during ancient and medieval period.

In the 19th century and 20th century Kolhapur District produced a galaxy of great men of Jain community, who spend their whole life for the preservation and spread of Jainism, Jain principles and Jain literature also. In this chapter an attempt will be made to study life and contribution of sum of

the Jain leaders and religious pandits like Santhisagar Maharaja, Acharya Elacharya Maharaj, Samantbhadra Maharaj of Bhahubali, Laxmisen Maharaj of Kolhapur, Jinasena Bhattaraka of Nandani and Prof. A.B. Late, Prof. Dr. A.N. Upadhye, Shri Shanthinath Patane, Karamveer Bhaurao patil, Shri K.B. Awate, Shri Bhishikar Guruje, Dr. V.A. Sangave, Prin. S.B. Ahakole, Prof. D.A. Patil, Adv. N.A. Nadrekar, Shri B.B. Patil, Prin. S. Herwade, Shri Satyawadi Balaso Patil, Shri. Babasaheb Khanjere, Sou. Sarojini Khanjere etc.

These leaders and Jain Munis spent whole life for the welfare and benefit of the community. The high, noble, rich and varied heritage and glorious tradition of the Tirthankar's still exist in Jain Community in Kolhapur Dist. And while last forever. This is the pride of Jain community. The number of persons working for the betterment of Jain community in the field of religion and public field is very big. Only a contribution of few eminent leaders is narrated in the following pages. Some persons are working in religious field and others are working in educational and social field. It is highly impossible to note here all the names of the leaders and notable personalities for want of space.

The study of these persons working in varied field is essential. Therefore in this chapter an attempt has been made to show the multifarious

activities of some eminent persons belonging to Jain community in Kolhapur Dist. in brief.

His Holiness Shantisagar Maharaj(1872-1955):

Jain community in Kolhapur district is very fortunate to have a great Saint Shantisagar Maharaj who inspired and revered the old tradition of Jain Muni in 28th century. He was honoured by the honorific titles like Prathamacharya of 20th century, Charitrachakarvarti, Gurunanguru (Lord of the Lords), Samadhisamrat, Parampujacharya Shri 108 Shantisagar Maharaj.

His full life is interesting and inspiring to posterity. But his contribution to revive the tradition of Jain Muni is noteworthy and appreciated by foreign and as well as Indian scholars also.

He was born in 1872 at Yalgud Taluka Hatkanangale Dist. Kolhapur in the house of his maternal uncle. But his parents native place was Bhoj Taluka Chikode Dist. Belgaum in Karnataka. His fathers name was Bhimgonda Patil and mothers name was Satyawati. Shantisagar's previous name was Satgonda. His parents were religious minded persons who inculcated Jain rites and culture. He studied only upto third standard because in those days there was little value for formal education. But later on this Satagonda, the future Shantisagar Maharaj became one of the authority and exponent of Jain religious books. In those days there was a practice of early

marriages. Satgonda(Shanthisagar) was the victim of this evil practice and his marriage took place at the age of 9, when his wife was 6 years old, who expired within 6 months after marriage. His parents were thinking to arrange another marriage of Satagonda, who refused it. His parents profession was agriculture and cloth merchant. But from the childhood Satagonda was interested in meditation and the study of Jain religious books. He came into contact with Devendrakirti Maharaj and decided to give up renounced this material word. Right from childhood he was leaning towards religious and spiritual affairs. Some time his parents shouldered him the responsibility of looking after clothshop and farm. But he did not take interest in this. Since the age of 18 he sacrificed the sleeping on "Gadi"(Cotton Bed). Later on he also did not use any vehicle from the age of 25 and refused to take Ghee and oil from the age of 32. Subsequently he vowed to take meals and water once in a day.

After the death of his mother he left his native place and went to Uttur village, which nearby to Stawanidhi, the famous sacred and religious Jain centre. His stay at Uttur Village was very fruitful because he came in close contact with Devendrakirti Maharaj and from him Satagonda took the 'Diksha' and renamed as "Shantisagar" in the year 1915A.D.

Generally Jain Sadhus and Munis did not stay at one place. He should travel from place to place which was called as his 'Vihar' . He follows this practice. Shanthisagar wandered place to place and proceeded to 'Girnar' the Nirvan Place of Lord Neminath 22nd Tirthankar. Girnar even today is visited by many Jainas every year. At this sacred place Shanthisagar received the 'Elakha Diksha'. Later on in 1920 he gave up his whole clothes and took the Digambar Diksha at Varanasi i.e. he became fully naked and therefore he was called as Nirgrantha Muni which tradition was stopped during medieval period. Everyday he was walking by foot from village to village and at every village, where he stayed for some time he delivered religious discourse before the villagers. His religious discourses on *Ahinsa*, truth Jain Agam, Jain stories and on the life of Tirthankaras were interesting. So number of not only Jain Shravaka and Shravikas where flocked people but people from other community also gathered to listen his teaching. Meanwhile he went to Samdoli Tal.Miraj District. Sangali where he received the title of "Acharyapad" in 1924. Acharyashantisagar as the symbol of equality and mercy. Subsequently when he went to 'Gajapat' near Nasik he received the greatest title of "Charitrachakaravarthi". He traveled throughout India for many years and spread the teaching of Jainism. In his every speech he gave more emphasis on peace, Non-Violence, right Conduct, Right Knowledge,

Right Dharshan. He also stayed the importance of 'NamokaraMantra'. He also visited Bahubali in the year 1927 and from there he marched along with his Sangha to Samedhasikharji. During his lifetime central Government granted the permission to Jain community as a independent community for which Shanthisagar Maharaj fasted. He was instrumental to raise the funds for publication of old Jain manuscript. Some old Jain temple were repaired at his instance. He traveled more than 2000 Kilometers throughout India during his lifetime and spread the gospel of Lord Mahavir and other Tirthankaras. At last he passed away on 8-9-1955 by observing 'Sallekhana Vow' i.e. fast unto death at Kunthlgiri in Osmanabad District of Maharashtra. His greatest contribution is to revive the tradition of Niragrantha Muni Parampara in the 20th century.

Prof.A.B.Latthe(1878-1950):

Prof A.B. Latthe was a scholar, Professor of Rajaram College, Biographer of Shahu Chhatrapati, Education inspector of Kolhapur state, Satyashodhaka worker, editor of Pragathi and Jinvijay and Deccan Rayat, Diwan of Kolhapur state, Finance minister of Bombay presidency and one of the greatest leader of Jain community and one of the leader of Non-Brahmin movement in the first half of 20th Century.

Buth his greatest contribution to Jain community to Kolhapur District was to start 'Sravikashram" Kolhapur and his service to Dakshina Bharat Jain Sabha. There are detailed biography written by Madwana Guruji and Prof. Y.D. Phadake. A.B. Latthe's all correspondence is kept in K.W.C. College, Sangali for the use of scholars. Here a brief account of his life and work is given.¹

He was born on 9th December 1878 at Kurundwad. He passed matric examination from Sangali Highschool, Sangli in 1895 and Intermediate in 1898 from Rajaram College, Kolhapur. Then he sent to Pune for higher study and passed B.A. from Deccan college, Pune in the year 1901. Then he went to Bombay for post graduate study and obtained M.A.degree in IInd class from Bombay University 1903. At that time he was staying in Shet Hirachand Gumanji Jain Boarding Bombay. He was the first student belonging to Jain community, who obtained M.A. Degree.

Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur was great visionary ruler and social revolutionary King. He recruited Non-Brahmin educated lads in his state. Shahu Magaraj was great also educationalist and founder of Hostel movement in Kolhapur state. On 9th August 1905 Jain Boarding in Kolhapur established with the help of Shahu Chattarpati Maharaj and A.B. Latthe was appointed as first superintendent of Jain hostel. Later on he became the

Prof. of English in the prestigious Rajaram College Kolhapur in 1907, which was run by Kolhapur Darbar itself. Prof. A.B.Latthe and Shahu Chhattarpati had a close and intimate relation. Therefore Latthe was also appointed as Mamledar of Karveer and city Magistrate in the year 1910.

Moreover he also worked as an educationalist inspector of Karveer state from 1911 to 1914. but in the year 1914 there was a incident and A.B. Latthe left Kolhapur for Belgaum, where he stayed for some years. In 1916 he received the degree of L.L.B. and become the Advocate. In 1920 he started English weekly "Deccan Rayat" from Belgaum. In 1921 he was elected as a member of central Legislative council Delhi from Chhikodi constituency and remained M.P. from 1921 to 1923.

Meanwhile Shahu Chhattarpati's sad demise took place on 6th may 1922 and his son Rajaram Maharaj succeeded to the throne of Kolhapur state. There was a need of writing biography of Shahu Chhatrapati, who worked a lot for the upliftment of the backward community in English as well as Marathi. Raobhadur R.V. Sabnish was the Diwan of Kolhapur from 1898 to 1926 and he know the ability of Prof. A.B. Latthe, who had a good command over English. R.V. Sabnis ~~and~~ Rajaram Chhatarpati invited Prof. A.B. Latthe from Belgaum to Kolhapur and assigned the work of writing biography of Shahu Chhatarpati in two volumes.

Prof.A.B. Latthe was a able writer. He wrote the following major books besides number of Editorials and Articles. His major books are

1. Introduction to Jainism(1905)
2. Rise of British Empire(1914)
3. Memoirs of H.H. Shahu Chhatrapati of Kolhapur- Vol. I &II
4. Problems of Indian states(1930)
5. Federal Constitution of the World(1931)
6. My Foreign Memoirs(1934)

But his Biography of Shahu Maharaj was standard book and welcomed by all the people.

The year 1926 was a red letters day in the life of Prof. A.B. Latthe because he was appointed as a Diwan of Kolhapur state because R.V. Sabnish after serving Kolhapur state for a preety long time since 1893 retired in the year 1926.² His successor was Prof. A.B. Latthe. He served a Kolhapur state as a Diwan from 1926 to 1930. During his tenure of Diwanship he granted plot for Sravikashram in Laxmipuri and other concession for other Jain community. Later on he also attended round table conference in London in 1930-31 as a representative. Again in the year 1930 he received the title of "Diwan Bhadur" from Viceroy in 1930. but due to some cause he left Kolhapur in 1931 for second time and stayed again in

Belgaum. Afterwards 1936 he joined the congress party and in 1937 he became finance minister in the Balasaheb Kher ministry in the Bombay Presidency and worked as a successful finance minister for two year(1937-1939).

Again for the third time Prof. A.B.Latthe served the Kolhapur state in 1946. He was appointed as the "Political Advisor of karveer state" by then Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj.³ In 1948 A.B. Latthe was honored with the title of "Karveer ratna" by the Kolhapur Darbar. On 1st march 1949 Kolhapur state was merged into Bombay Presidency and A.B. Latthe left Kolhapur forever and went to Belgaum where he passed on 16th May 1950, by heartattack.

To sum up Prof. A.B. Latthe was a great leader of Jain community of Kolhapur state, who contributed much for the development of Jain community in former Kolhapur state and inspired to young Jain leaders to follow his work. He was a true Jain and led very simple life but a great scholar and social reformer produced by Jain community.

Prof. A.N. Upadhye(1906-1975):

Prof. A.N. Upadhye was a great orienalist and Erudite Scholar produced by Jain Community. He was a International research scholar in 'Ardhamagadhi' and Jainology. His full name was Adinath Neminath

Upadhye. He was born on 6th Feb. 1906 at Sadlaga Tal. Chhikodi Dist. Belgaum. He took his primary education in Kannada at Sadalga and Shemnewadi. Right from the beginning he was a clever and obedient student. His father died at early age and he was brought up by his Uncle. After completion of Primary education he went to Belgaum for Highschool education and then for higher education he came to Kolhapur and studied at Rajaram College in Kolhapur. Later on he joined Willington College, Sangali from where he passed and obtained I class Sanskrit and Ardhmagadhi subject in the year 1928. His teacher was Dr. P. L. Vaidhy regard about whom he always high regard. Later on he went to Pune and took the admission in Bhandarkar Oriental research Institute from where he passed M.A. in first class in 1930. His subjects were Ardhmagadhi and Sanskrit.⁴

After completion of his education he came to Kolhapur and joined as a teacher in M.L.G. highschool for some time. At that time international Scholar, Great Historian and AryaSamajist Dr.Balakrishna was the Principal of Rajaram College Kolhapur. He knew the talents of A.N. Upadhye and selected him as a Prof. of Aradhamagadhi for Rajaram College. Prof.A. N. Upadhye joined in the Rajaram College in the year 1930 and served for many years and started his research work in Prakrit and Jainology. He

published research work on “Panchsuthama” and “Samaysara of Kundkund. For these two research work Bombay University conferred D.Lit (Honorary Cause) on Prof. A.N. Upadhye in 1939. Later on he edited number of Jain works with critical introduction. He was a Dean faculty of Arts Shivaji University of Kolhapur from 1962 to 1972. He was also appointed as the Head of the Jainology of Mysore University where he worked from 1971 to 1975. He was a extraordinary Jain research scholar who passed in Kolhapur on 8th Oct. 1975. He rendered a great service to Jain community of Kolhapur state by editing and publishing number of Jain sacred books with critical notes for the use of Jain Sravaka and Sravikas.

He edited the following importance religious work. Panchasuttam, Yogidhdevacchaparmatamaprakash, Varangcharit, Camshavo, Ushanirudhnam, Tilopunnato, Brihatkattsara, Duttakhanna, Chandralekha, Lilavati, Anandsuri, Khattignupakka etc.

Babasaheb Khanjire(1922-1981):

Another great Jain leader is Babasaheb Khanjire(1922-1981) of Ichalkaranji. He was a great freedom fighter, who is regarded as one of the makers of Modern Ichalkaranji. He was born on 26th may 1922. He was very

much interested in sports. Under his leadership before 1940 he established a club named 'Prakash Mandal'. He received college education at Fergusson College, Pune and Willingdon College, Sangli.

During pre-independence period, there was a beginning of social reforms. In 1948-49, he started the eradication of untouchability movement in Ichalkaranji.⁵

In 1952 he got elected member of Bombay legislative assembly. Alongwith political work he concentrated his attention on Ichalkaranji city's industrial development as well as its co-operative field. He took Ichalkaranji Urban bank under his control which helped the industrial development of Ichalkaranji. After that he established the Co-operative societies like 'The Ichalkaranji Janata Sahkari Societies'. 'The Ichalkaranji Janata Sahakari Bank', consumers society, Powerloom association, Industrial Estate and the Deccan Co-Operative spinning mill. He had a great share in the establishment of Shri. Panchganga Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana and Shri Datta Shetkari Sahkari Sakhar Karkhana.

Similarly he became the president of the Kolhapur Dist. Congress Party in 1962-63. He established the Indian National Trade Union Congress with the sole intention that the labourers should have the support of a Union.

He created the Union of laborers of the spinning and processing mills, S.T. Labourers and included them in INTUC.

This great leader passed away on 26th may 1981 and due to his sad demise, Ichalkaranji lost one of its true sons who spent their whole lives for the development of city.⁶

Mr.Kallapanna Awade:

The another important man who is yet alive and has continued the work of previous social and political workers is Mr. Kallappa Awade. He was born on 5th July 1931 in a humble farmer's family from Ichalkaranji. He is a hard worker and brilliant man. His work in the social economic, educational religious fields in extraordinary and has enriched the cultural life of the poor men in city of Ichalkaranji. He is a great organizer and Chairman of Bahubali Vidyapeeth and other mills which have provided jobs to many needy persons.

He is founder of Ichalkaranji Janata Sahkari Bank Ltd.,(1962). He was chairman of the said Bank till 1976 i.e. for a continuous period of 14 years, and Chairman of Vikas Seva Society from 1973 to 1979. To ensure adequate yarn supply to the growing powerloom industry at Ichalkaranji, Shri. Awade promoted and established a spinning mill viz. The Ichalkaranji Co-Operative Spinning Mills in 1974. With a view to encouraging and

giving scope to entrepreneurial capabilities and to providing employment opportunities for women, he conceived an idea of establishing a co-operative spinning mill exclusively for women, under the name 'Indira Gandhi Mahila Sahakari Soot Girani Ltd. : The enterprise, first of its kind in the country was established in the year 1992.

He was founder of Jawahar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana at Hupari, which is 15 Km. away from Ichalkaranji. Shri K.B. Awade succeeded in establishing 100% export oriented unit viz. 'Nav Maharashtra Sahakari Soot Girani Ltd.'. He has also established Laxmi Gramin Hatmag Vikas Sahakari Society Ltd.

He is founder of Dattajirao Kadam Technical Education Society. He was instrumental in starting the Night College and the Vyankatesh College(Arts, Commerce, Science) to benefit the poor and industrious youth in Ichalkaranji and surrounding area.

He was president of Ichalkaranji Municipal Council from 1962 to 1967. In 1980, he was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from the Ichalkaranji constituency of Kolhapur District. He was inducted to the Ministry of Maharashtra in Feb.1983. Initially he was minister of state for Industries. He was entrusted with the additional responsibility of minister of state for urban Development in July 1984.

The prestigious Fie Foundation Award conferred on Mr. Awade on 25-2-1996 for his outstanding performance in the fields of Co-Operative movement. Education and socio-economic development in this region.

Subsequently he got elected for the 11th Lok Sabha in May 1996 and Nov. 1997 and become member of Parliament for short period. He was studious M.P. and Punctual in attendance. But unfortunately he received a setback in Mid-term election of Parliament. He received honorable 'Samaj Bhushan Award' from Sraman Sadhan Peet, Solapur in 2002.

But Shri K.B. Awade contribution to Jain community is noteworthy. He has been associated with all the Jain social institution in Kolhapur District and encouraged the religious activities of Jains. Many years he was Chairman of Bahubali Vidyapeet. Not only this but wherever Panchkalyan Pujas and other religious functions of the Jains, he liberally granted money always . So he is true Jain because according to Jainadharmastra giving money to religious activities is one of the act of sanctity and pious acts which collects.(*Punya*)

Shantinath alias Tatya patane(1910 to 1996):

Shantinath alias Tatya Patane was one of the great social worker of Jaina community in Kolhapur who spent all his life to upliftment of Jainas. He was born in 1910 in a trading community. He got elected in Kolhapur

Municipal Council for four times in 1931, 1934 and 1967. He became President(Nagaradhyaksha) of Kolhapur Municipal Council in 1970.

He was also the trustee of 'Keshapur Digambar Jain Mandir' Shahupuri for many years. He was associated with Daksin Bharat Jain Sabha, Kolhapur Digambar Jaina Boarding, Jaina Sravikasram etc. as a office bearer since 1945. he was also the secretary of Jain Boarding Kolhapur and he built beautiful 16 rooms building 'Jaydhawal' between 1946-1949. the building 'Jay Dhawal' of Jaina Sabha came into the existence during his tenure of Secretarianship between 1949 to 1960. 'Jai Dhawal' completed in 1970. he was also instrumental to write the history of Dakshina Bharat Jaina Sabha.⁷

His fathers name was Tavanappa Patane and mothers name was Shridevi. Shahu Maharaj established Shahupuri peth and this Patane family came to Shahupuri where they resides now also permanently. Tatya Patane's father was running the trade of ground nut, Jaggery etc. Tatya also run this trade many years. Between 1915 to 1930 Tatya came into close contact with great Jaina Muni Shantisagar and influenced by his teachings. Tatya was also joined Non-Co-operation movement started by Mahatma Gandhi in 1922 and used Khadi Clothes throughout his life. He was attended All India Congress Session held in Belgaum in 1924. He was reading regularly

‘Young India’ of Mahatma Gandhi since 1925. He passed matric examination in 1928 and joined F.Y.B.A. class. His classmate was prin. M.R. Desai a well known educationalists and founder Principal of G.K.G. College, Kolhapur. He passed F.Y.B.A. in 1929 and ended his formal education here.

After 1929 he started his traditional trade as a Merchant of Ground-nut and jaggery and faced many difficulties. Side by side he started his social work since 1929. He was the active member of ‘Shahupuri Merchant Association’ which established in 1928.

As a representative of Merchant’s association he became the member (Nagarsevak) of Kolhapur Municipality in 1932 and 1935. he also joined the activities of Kolhapur Praja-parishad which was agitating for freedom movement. He was the secretary of Kasturba fund committee founded in Kolhapur(1943) and collected 45000 for this fund. Again in 1945 he contested the election of Kolhapur Municipality as a candidate of Praja Parishad and got elected.⁸ He was married in 1930 and the name of his wife was Putalabai. He was widely traveled throughout India. He many times visited Bihar, Mysore, Gujrat and saw Jain religious places there. In 1971-72 he became the President of Kolhapur Municipality, which was climax of his social work eventhough he continues his religious work upto last movement

for Jain community. He was also president of Shahupuri Merchant Association in 1960.

He was the member of private education Society and vice-president of private education society Kolhapur for many years. He was true follower of Mahatma Gandhi and became member of Charakha Sangha, Khadi Sanga and Harijan Sevak Sang.

He received Manpatra from Kolhapur municipality. He was the member and secretary of Acharyaratna Deshbhushan Sikshan Prasarak mandal Kolhapur which runs Mahavir College. His sad demise took place on 30th Oct. 1996 and Jaina community lost one of the greatest social worker. He was always Co-Operative and Jewel of Jain Community.

Br. Bhisikar Manikchand(Guruji): (1913 - 2003)

This man not belonged to Kolhapur district but spent his whole life from 1952 to the development of Bahubali Vidyapeeth. He was close associate and urgent follower of Samant Bhadra Maharaja.

Born in 1913 spent his early life in Karanja city and came to Bahubali in about 1951. From 1951 he worked as a Director of Bahubali Vidyapeeth. He passed his B.A. in 1941 and M.A. in 1946 from Rajaram College Kolhapur with Ardhamagadhi subject. He also passed 'Nyayatirth

examination'. From 1941 to 1952 he stayed in Solapur and served Jain community.

On 15th Aug. 1950 'Sanmati' monthly was published first from Solapur and afterwards on from Bahubali Mr Bhisikar Guruji was the chief editor of this 'Sanmati' monthly and published so many special issues on various important subjects like 'Hirachand', A.B.Latthe, Indira Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lord Mahaveer, Bahubali and many others.⁹

On 18th August 1988, Samantbhadra Maharaj's Nirvan took place and the sole responsibility was felt on Bhisikar Guruji. On 15th August 1919 Guruji completed 84 yrs. He executed so many good plans for the upliftment of poor students. So really he was a 'Guruji' of all students and inspiring spirit to future generation. Two years back he passed away. (20th April 2023)

Prof. V.A.Sangave(b.1920):

Dr. Vilas A. Sangave who has carved a distinguished place for himself in the field of Jain studio and sociology was born on 2nd June 1920. He was educated at Poona and Bombay where he won his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. with distinction. His Ph.D. thesis on sociology of Jain community provides an ample proof of his depth of knowledge both in the fields of Jainism and sociology. After having held successfully the positions of Head

of the Dept. of Sociology in Karnatak College, Dharwad, Rajaram College, Kolhapur, Shivaji University Kolhapur and at present he is the Honorary Director of Shahu research Institute, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

In recent years research volumes on 'Rajarshi Shahu Chhatrapati Papers' edited by Dr. V.A. Sangave have been very much appreciated. Among Dr. Vilas Sangave's research publications in Jainology.¹⁰

1. Jaina Community: A social Survey
2. Life and legacy of Mahaveer: A social study.
3. History of Dakshin Bharat Jaina Sabha.
4. Sacred Sravan Selgola: A socio-religious study.
5. Hirachand Nemchand: The Pioneer of Jain Social Reform movement.
6. Aspects of Jaina religion.
7. The Jain Path of Ahinsa and
8. Jaina Culture: Tradition and Impact.

are considered as significant contributions to Studies in Jaina society, History and Religion.

A renowned speaker in English, Marathi and hindi and closely associated with several Universities and national level research Institute in social Science and Jainology. Dr. Vilas Sangave has been specially honoured

by the University of Cambridge (U.K.) in 1985 and by the Government of Bihar in 1989 for his distinctive services to research studies in Jainology.¹¹ As a scholar member of special delegation of International Jaina community, Dr. V.A. Sangave participated in the presentation of 'The Jain Declaration on Nature' to his Royal Highness Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace in London in October 1990. Dr. V.A. Sangave is also known for his lectures on Jain social History delivered in several universities in India.

Dr. V.A. Sangave is academic leader of Jaina Community in Kolhapur District. At present he is 84 but taking active part in the activities of Jain community.

Prin.(Pr)Subhashchandra Akkole:

Another reknowned scholar of Jainology is Dr. Subhashachandra Akkole who was born on 1st april 1927. He was ex principal of 'Anekant Educational Society's College Baramati' and Jaysingpur College, Jaysingpur. He was the Professor of Marathi. He received Ph.D. from Pune University. His topic of Ph.D. was 'Prachin marathi Jain SahityaBhandar'. He also wrote biography of Jain Acharya Shantisagar. Many years he was editor of 'Sanmati' and 'Pragati' and 'Jinvijaya' he published many Research articles in Sanmati, Navbharat, Marathi Sanshodhan patrika,



Bharat Itihas Mandal, Nansagar(Hindi) etc. he was also Director of 'Anekant Shoodhpeet', 'Bahubali'.

At present he is 77 years old and actively taking part in the activities of Jain community.

Other Leaders:

There are others many social workers and religious leaders. Prof. B.A. Chaugule, Prof. D.A. Patil, Prin. Shridhar Herwade, Dr. Gunde, Shri. B.B. Patil, Shri. Ganapatrao Rote, Mahaveer Desai and many others are doing religious and social work for the upliftment of Jain community in Kolhapur District.

Footnotes

1. Introduction from Biography of A.B. Latthe written by Madwana Guruji.
2. Administrative Report Kolhapur State, 1925-26, P.P.1-2.
3. Files-Kolhapur Record Office.
4. Special issue of Sanmati.
5. Information furnished by Night College, Ichalkaranji.
6. Kulkarni Shamrao 'Girshmateel Vasant', Ichalkaranji (1985).
7. Autobiography of Taty Patne.
8. Ibid.
9. Sanmati Special Issue.