

## CAUGHT IN THE COGS OF TIME 'The City of Copper'

**Author: David Shulman**

ISBN: 978-93-6177-484-3

Year: 2024

Pages: 176

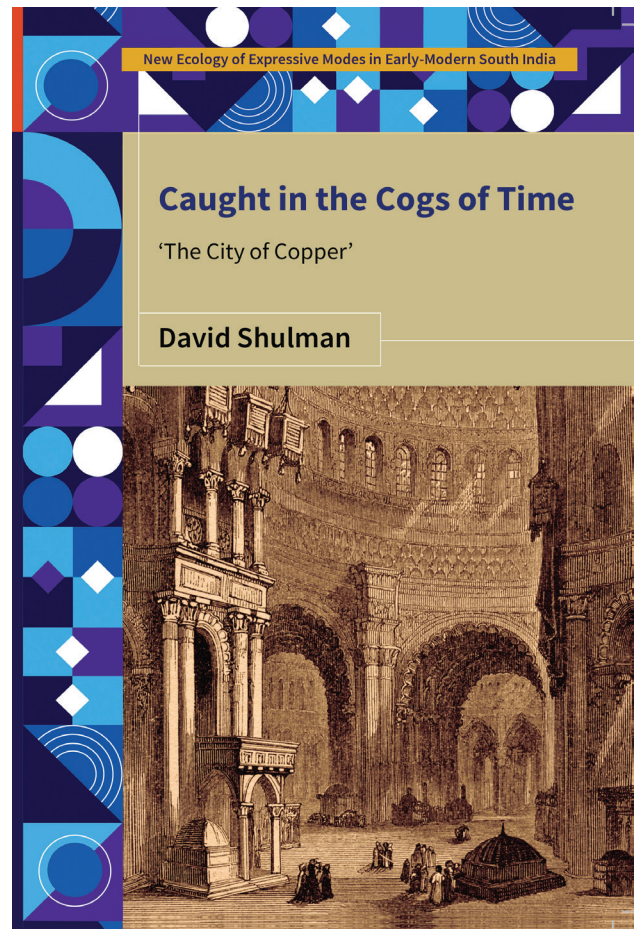
Price: ₹450/-

Format: Paperback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo



### THE BOOK

'The City of Copper', probably the most chilling story in the Arabic *Thousand and One Nights*, tells of a mysterious city in the depths of the Libyan desert inhabited only by the dead. The story has generated many later versions, including an important nineteenth-century text in Tamil—perhaps the earliest known example of modern literary prose in this language.

*Caught in the Cogs of Time* offers a synthesis of the themes that run through all versions—the multiple temporalities that shape our lives and the enigmatic relation between eternity and everyday experience. It also delves into the intense debates among the Islamic philosophers of the tenth and eleventh centuries, particularly the Isma'ili thinkers, which have had an impact on the formation and afterlife of this famous story.

### THE AUTHOR

**David Shulman** is Professor Emeritus of South Asian Studies at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He is the author of *The Rite of Seeing: Essays on Kūṭiyāṭṭam* (2021); *Tamil: A Biography* (2017); and *More than Real: A History of the Imagination in South India* (2012).

### READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Literature, Islamic Studies, Cultural Studies, Medieval History, Arabic Language and Philosophy, etc.

**ONE PLANET,  
MANY WORLDS  
The Climate Parallax**

**Author: Dipesh Chakrabarty**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-764-3

Year: 2024

Pages: 144

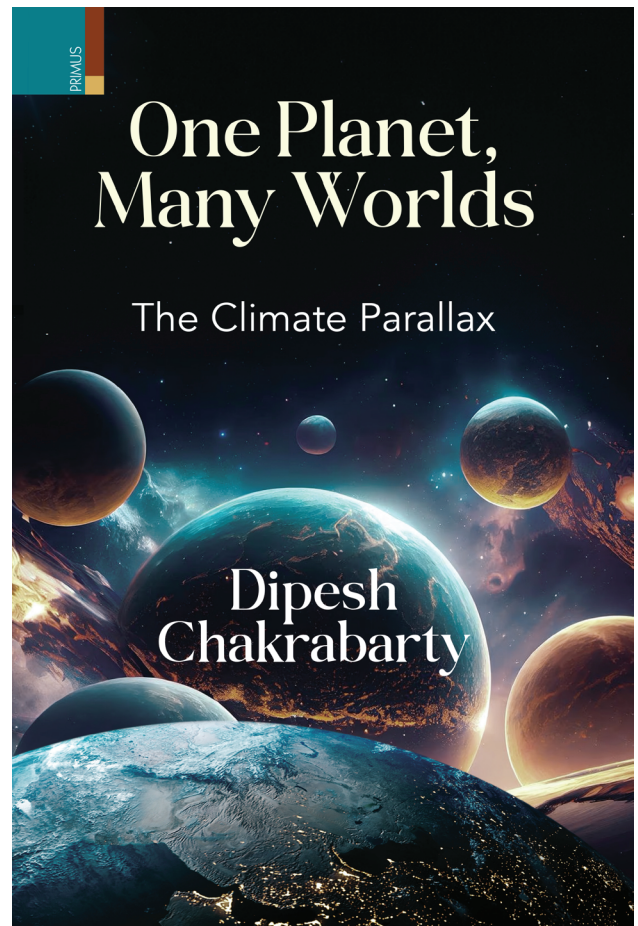
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Format: Hardback

Territory: South Asia

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo



**THE BOOK**

A historian offers a unique look at the pandemic, climate change, and the human versus non-human.

Climate change represents a deep conundrum for humans. It is difficult for humans to give up the unequal and yet accelerating pursuit of a good life based on an insatiable appetite for energy sourced mainly from fossil fuel. But the same pursuit, scientists insist, damages the geobiological system that supports the existence of interrelated forms of life, including ours, on this planet. The planet, seen thus, is one. The global sway of financial and extractive capital connects humans technologically, but they remain divided along multiple axes of inequality. Their worlds are many and their politics still global rather than planetary. In the narrative presented here, Chakrabarty continues to explore the temporal and intellectual fault lines that mark the collapse of the global and the planetary in human history.

**THE AUTHOR**

**Dipesh Chakrabarty** is the Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *The Calling of History: Sir Jadunath Sarkar and His Empire of Truth*. Chakrabarty is the recipient of the 2014 Toynbee Prize, which is given to a distinguished practitioner of global history and the Tagore Memorial Prize by the Government of West Bengal in 2019. He has recently been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Environmental History, Environmental Studies, Anthropocene, Climate Studies, Deep History, etc.



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**SIKANDER HYAT-KHAN**  
**Collected Papers of the Premier**  
**of United Punjab, 1928–1942**

**Edited by: Jeanne Sheehan**

ISBN: 978-93-6177-530-7

Year: 2024

Pages: 811

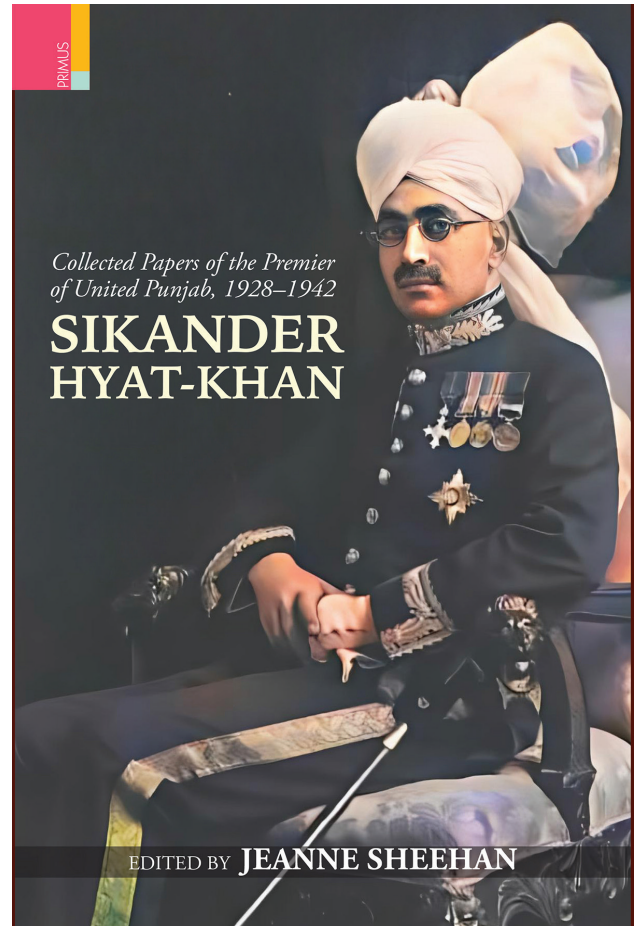
Price: ₹2500/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

*Sikander Hyat-Khan: Collected Papers of the Premier of United Punjab, 1928–1942* presents a comprehensive examination of a pivotal figure in the history of unified Punjab. Hyat-Khan, whose tenure was cut short by his passing at the age of 50, served as a beacon of leadership in the years leading up to the Partition that would reshape the subcontinent. As Punjab’s first democratically elected leader, Hyat-Khan championed intercommunal harmony, assembling a cabinet of diverse faiths, and spearheading significant reforms across agriculture, economy, law, education, and culture. He also made pivotal contributions, including drafting the Lahore Resolution (which later became the basis for Pakistan’s Constitution), leading India in World War II, advocating for self-determination, and envisioning a unified postcolonial state. This first-ever collection of Hyat-Khan’s writings, speeches, and tributes offers insight into his impact and the pivotal moments in South Asian history, celebrating a visionary leader’s commitment to freedom and unity.

**THE EDITOR**

**Jeanne Sheehan** is Professor of Political Science and International Studies at Iona University, a Bloomberg Politics contributor, Senior Democracy Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, and author.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of South Asian History, Modern Indian History, Colonialism, and Political & Social History.



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**SINGING THE GODDESS  
INTO PLACE**  
**Locality, Myth, and Social  
Change in *Chamundi of the  
Hill*, a Kannada Folk Ballad**

**Author: Caleb Simmons**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-514-4

Year: 2024

Pages: 264

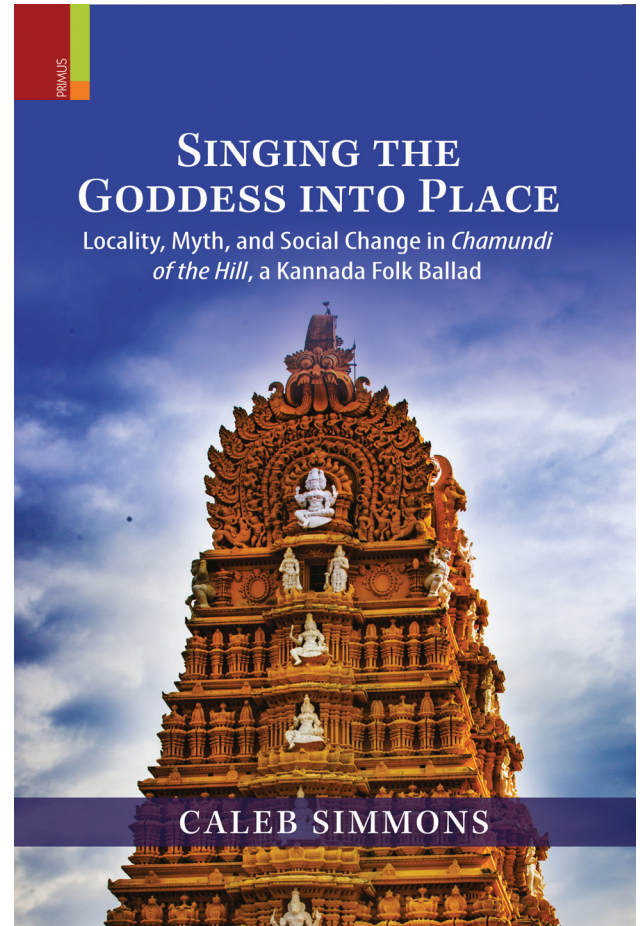
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Format: Hardback

Territory: South Asia

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



## THE BOOK

*Singing the Goddess into Place* examines *Chamundi of the Hill*, a collection of songs that tells the stories of the gods and goddesses of the region around the city of Mysore in southern Karnataka. The ballad actively transforms the region into a land where gods and goddesses live, embedding these deities within the social worlds of their devotees and remapping southern Karnataka into sacred geography connected through networks of devotion and pilgrimage. In this in-depth study of the songs and their context, Caleb Simmons not only provides the first English-language translation of these songs but brings to light the unstudied folk perspectives on the foundational myth of Mysore and its urban history. *Singing the Goddess into Place* demonstrates how folk narratives reflect local context while also actively working to upend social inequities based on caste and ritual/devotional practices. By delving into this world, the book helps us understand how a landscape is transformed through people's relationship with it and how this relationship helps build meaning for the communities that call it home.

## THE AUTHOR

**Caleb Simmons** is Professor of Religious Studies, Faculty Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, and Executive Director of Online Education at the University of Arizona. He is the author of *Devotional Sovereignty: Kingship and Religion in India* and co-editor (with Moumita Sen and Hillary Rodrigues) of *Nine Nights of the Goddess: The Navaratri Festival in South Asia*.

## READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Folklore Studies, Local History, Oral History, Cultural Studies, Religious Studies, Translation Studies, etc.



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## BENIGN IMPERIALISM? Proper Conduct and the Public Interest in Colonial India

**Author: Peter Robb**

ISBN: 978-93-6177-714-1

Year: 2024

Pages: 350

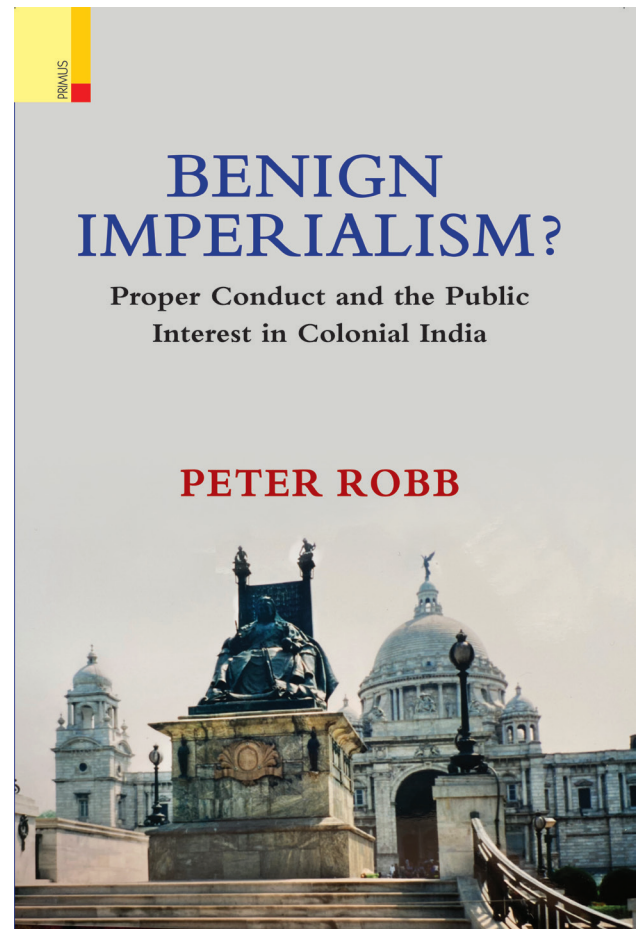
Price: ₹1550/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



### THE BOOK

Were colonial rulers in India worse than other governments and if so why? To consider those questions, the first part of *Benign Imperialism?* examines confidential discussions within the Government of India concerning official misconduct, law, and public benefit, particularly in the Bengal Presidency in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Officials debated the purpose and methods of British rule, how to punish civil servants' misconduct, the relationship between executive and High Court, and the importance of public opinion in India (and Britain). The book also considers these issues by referring to court cases and some British Parliamentary Papers.

Part two turns to policies and local administration, revealing shortcomings including poor focus and police corruption. It assesses the basis of government understandings and describes conditions of village life and the local experience of British rule. The last two chapters look at examples of policies reacting to need and intended to be beneficial, with the longest discussion being about rural irrigation.

The broad conclusion is that there was concern for probity and the public interest but a serious shortfall in performance. Arguably that was for reasons seen in governments of many kinds. It is suggested that that is worrying, given the severe problems faced, especially today.

### THE AUTHOR

**Peter Robb**, FRAS, FRHistS, is Professor Emeritus at SOAS University of London.

### READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Modern Indian History, History of the Bengal Presidency, Colonial History, Administrative History, Legal History, History of Bihar, etc.



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**PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES  
OF SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY**  
**Essays in Honour of Dwijendra  
Narayan Jha**

**Edited by: Jaya S. Tyagi, Saiyid Zaheer  
Husain Jafri and Amar Farooqui**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-668-4

Year: 2024

Pages: 604

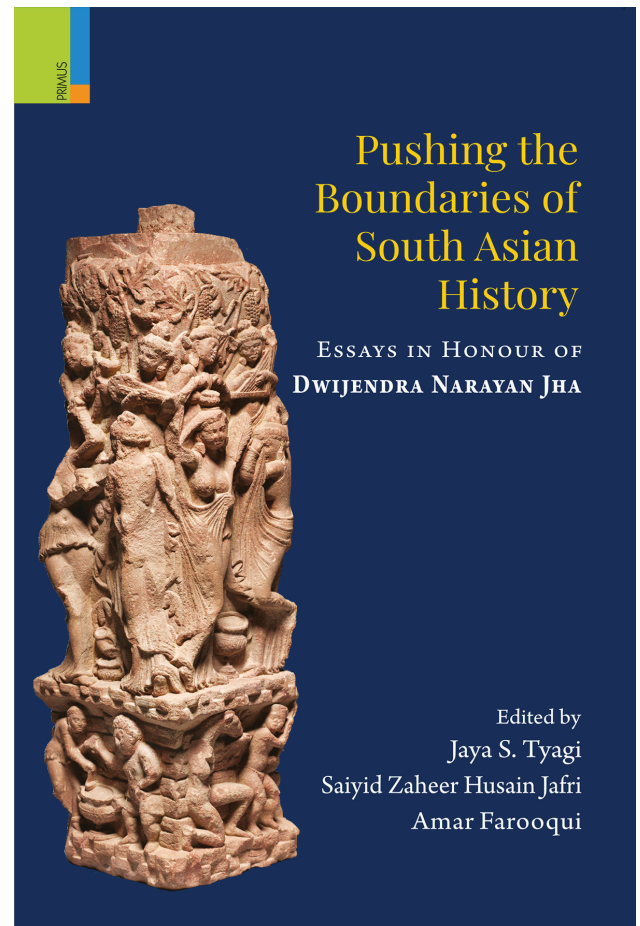
Price: ₹1650/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

*Pushing the Boundaries of South Asian History* is a tribute to Professor Dwijendra Narayan Jha's skill and craftsmanship as a historian. He was an outstanding scholar, who constantly reinvented himself and kept abreast of changes in historical perspectives and methodology. In this volume, a wide range of historians, whose works have made significant contributions to the understanding of South Asian history, have come together to pay homage to him through their work; in doing so they attempt to redefine the existing spatial, chronological and conceptual boundaries relating to the history of the region. The chapters herein, organized into four sections, focus on new aspects of South Asian history, drawing attention to liminal areas, filling intermittent spaces, and retrieving histories that sometimes slip through the gaps created by chronological boundaries of ancient versus early medieval, medieval vis-à-vis the modern. This demonstrates the fluid and nebulous nature of 'boundaries' and how 'connected' histories are. It also showcases the deeply entangled and intersecting layers of past societies and the new ways through which historians can attempt to retrieve the past. In doing so, this volume pushes at the boundaries of our existing knowledge of Indian history and underlines the dynamic nature of history as a discipline.

**THE EDITORS**

**Jaya S. Tyagi** is Professor in the Department of History, University of Delhi.

**Saiyid Zaheer Husain Jafri** was till recently Professor of medieval Indian history, Department of History, University of Delhi.

**Amar Farooqui** was formerly Professor of History, University of Delhi.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of South Asian History, Ancient Indian History, Epigraphy, Medieval Indian History, Modern Indian History, Colonialism, Communalism, Intellectual History.



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**A REMEMBERED VILLAGE,  
A REMEMBERED TOWN  
Socio-economic Changes in  
Western Tamil Nadu**

**Author: S. Neelakantan**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-185-6

Year: 2024

Pages: 258

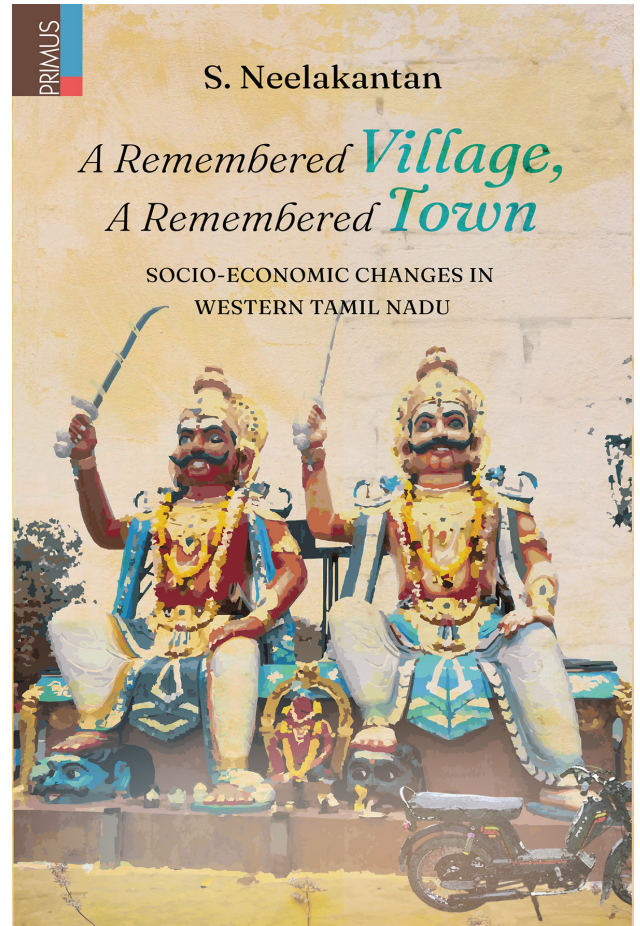
Price: ₹995/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo



**THE BOOK**

Western Tamil Nadu has witnessed tremendous changes in the last many decades, which have underpinned its contemporary economic, social and political importance. However, the region in general has remained largely understudied.

*A Remembered Village, A Remembered Town* gives an impressionistic account of socio-economic changes in a village, Appipalayam, and its nearest town, Karur, in the second half of the twentieth century. As a trained economist, S. Neelakantan brings his scholarship to bear on his lived experience and, whilst exploring labour, landed power, caste, and rural-urban linkages, provides an insightful account of the transformations, growth, and stagnation witnessed in the Kongu region across five decades. Peppered with anecdotes, this book makes for a gripping read.

**THE AUTHOR**

**S. Neelakantan** (1935–2023) was born into a traditional landholding family in Chettipalayam of Karur district, Tamil Nadu. Having begun his career with a brief stint as an advocate at Madras High Court, Neelakantan taught economics at various colleges in Tamil Nadu before becoming a Professor at Bharathidasan University. He was also a Fulbright Fellow at Washington University under Nobel laureate Douglass C. North. Neelakantan served as Director of MIDS in the early nineties.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Socio-Economic History, Sociology, Urbanisation, Environmental Studies, and Social History.



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**DILEMMAS OF A TRISHANKU**  
**Memory, Self and Society in**  
**Contemporary India**

**Author: Deepak Kumar**

ISBN: 978-93-6177-161-3

Year: 2024

Pages: 292

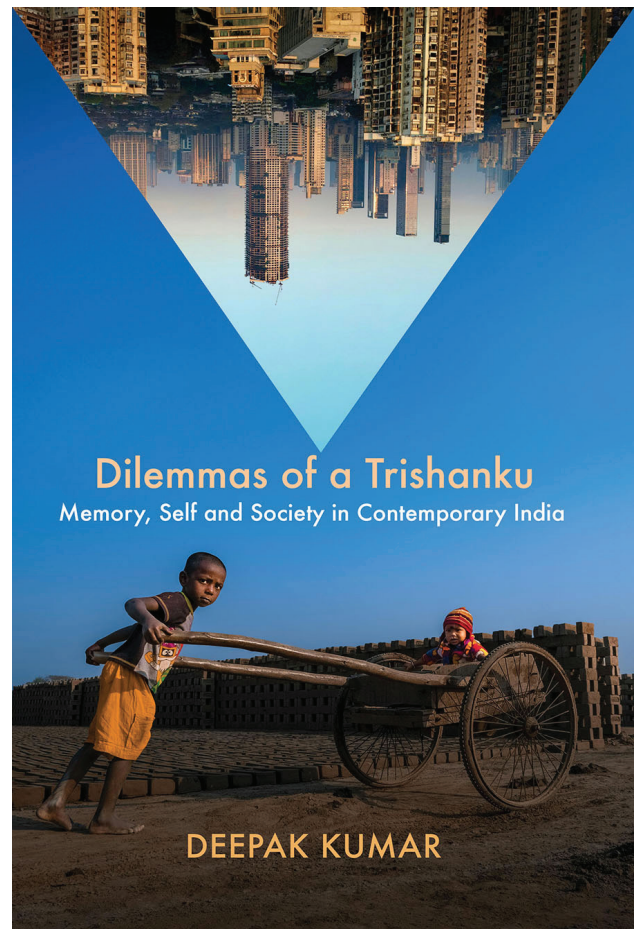
Price: ₹695/-

Format: Paperback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo



**THE BOOK**

*Dilemmas of a Trishanku* presents a thought-provoking account of a society and a nation marked by its contradictions and seamlessly combines everyday social and political experiences with academic insights. The Pauranic story of a pious king called Trishanku, who probably still hangs between heaven and earth, is used as a metaphor to capture the different nuances of dilemmas which we all face in life as individuals and as citizens.

Based on both historical data and what sociologists call ‘participant observation’, this account dwells on the predicaments and struggles of post-independence India. It begins with a depiction of life in a mofussil town and moves on to examine closely the issues of caste, religion, governance, corruption, education, science, culture, and lot more.

Presented with rare verve and wit, and by using the lens of both historical and personal experiences, these ‘rumblings’ help unfurl layers of life in contemporary India.

**THE AUTHOR**

**Deepak Kumar** has worked and popularized research and teaching on the history of science in India for almost five decades. In 2017 he retired as Professor of History of Science and Education from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Post-Independence Indian History, Indian Polity, Social History, Sociology, History of Science and Medicine, and Development Studies.





## FROM SCIENCE TO SOCIETY

### Journey of an Indian Geologist

**Author: Subhayu Chattopadhyay**

ISBN: 978-93-5572-128-0

Year: 2024

Pages: 414

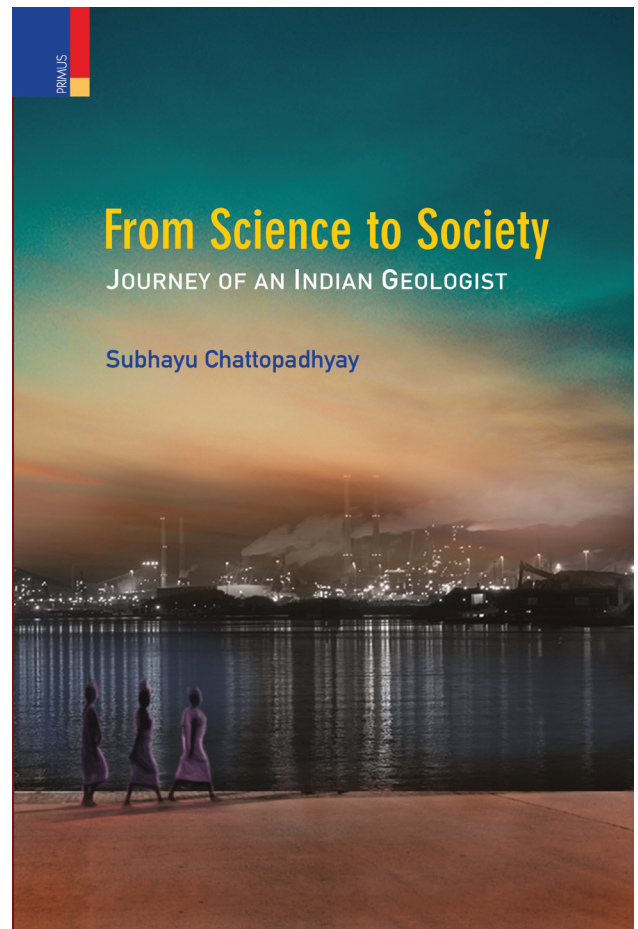
Price: ₹1650/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



### THE BOOK

Pramatha Nath Bose, 'the first Indian Geologist' to be appointed to a graded post by the colonial government, quit his job to register his protest against racial discrimination at the highest official level of the British government in India. He later went on to make significant discoveries as a state geologist of Mayurbhanj which led to the foundation of Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd (TISCO), the first heavy industry of India. *From Science to Society: Journey of an Indian Geologist* not only traces the significance of Bose's performance as a graded officer of the Geological Survey of India, but also addresses the ever-changing equations between the practitioners of science and the colonial government, whose primary focus was the commercial exploitation of the mineral resources of the subcontinent.

From being an ardent advocate for the need of industrialization in India, the renowned geoscientist, in his later life became an introvert which eventually led to a complete reorientation of his belief system, mainly rooted in a critique of heavy industrialism—which had become a tool of imperialistic aggression. This book explores the life of Bose, a classic representative of the Western-educated middle class of modern India, and traces how a scientist's mind finally envisioned society at large as the actual laboratory for experimenting with his thoughts.

### THE AUTHOR

**Subhayu Chattopadhyay** is Assistant Professor at the Department of History, Visva-Bharati.

### READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Modern Indian History, History of Science, Colonial History, etc.



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**INCLUSIVE PEDAGOGIES**  
**Teaching and Learning Practices**  
**in Higher Education in India**

**Editor: Kanika Singh**

ISBN: 978-93-6177-124-8

Year: 2024

Pages: 202

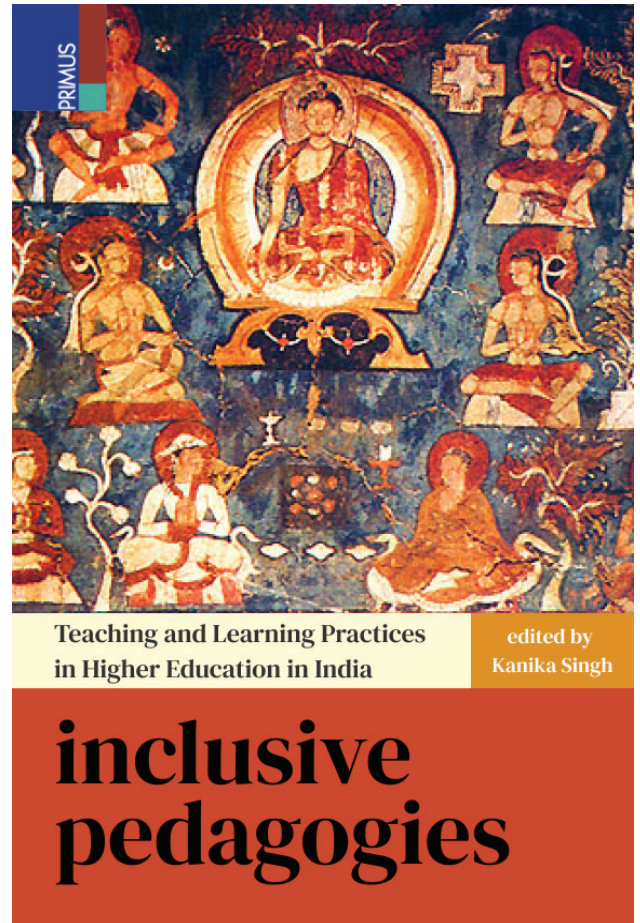
Price: ₹1195/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

*Inclusive Pedagogies: Teaching and Learning Practices in Higher Education in India* emerges from the work of the Centre for Writing and Communication at Ashoka University, Sonapat. It addresses some of the most fundamental issues facing higher education in India, namely, of pedagogy and inclusion. The essays in this volume offer a range of perspectives ranging from an ideological vision for inclusive pedagogy, critically analysing policy and disciplinary discourses, to individual experiments in syllabi-making and classroom interaction. The contributors to this book are scholars trained in a variety of disciplines, sharing their experiences of engaging with the idea of ‘inclusion’ as teachers, scholars and administrators in young and emerging universities.

**THE EDITOR**

**Kanika Singh** is Director, Centre for Writing and Communication, Ashoka University, Haryana. She is a historian working in the field of public history, museums and heritage politics and her forthcoming book is a study of Sikh museums in India.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to students of Education and scholars researching on themes like Pedagogy, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, and Indian Higher Education.



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**POLICE POWER AND  
COLONIAL RULE  
Madras, 1859–1947  
(Second Revised Edition)**

**Author: David Arnold**

ISBN: 978-93-6177-667-0

Year: 2024

Pages: 408

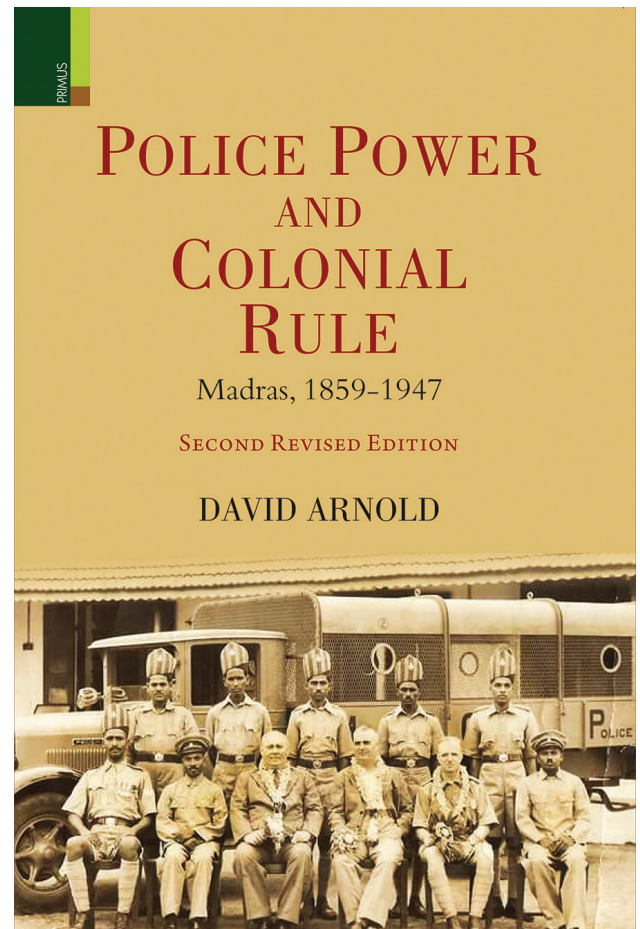
Price: ₹1150/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

*Police Power and Colonial Rule* analyses the increasing deployment and growing authority of the police in the Madras Presidency of British India, demonstrating the centrality of policing to the colonial regime and its legacies. Beginning with the formation of a colonial constabulary in 1859, the book examines the evolving organization and structure of the force, its racial hierarchies, and response to rapidly changing political and social conditions that led up to Indian independence. Based on cutting-edge research, this work explores the contested role of the police in combating nationalist opposition and labour militancy, and shows how the police, through the formation and expansion of armed units, replaced the military in enforcing internal order and suppressing anti-colonial resistance. The book also examines the impact of colonial policing on both rural and urban society in south India and discusses how nationalists opposed police brutality while ultimately seeking ascendancy over the force. Grounded in India's colonial history, the book is also directly relevant to the critical study of postcolonial India and colonial policing around the world. For this revised edition, the author has written a new Introduction setting out the scope of the work and placing it in the context of recent police studies.

**THE AUTHOR**

**David Arnold** is Professor Emeritus in the Department of History, University of Warwick and a Fellow of the British Academy.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Colonial History, Police System, History of Crime, Administrative History, History of the Madras Presidency and Modern Indian History.



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**BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,  
1850–1920  
Disease, Sanitation and Public  
Health Personalities**

**Author: Mridula Ramanna**

ISBN: 978-93-58522-05-1

Year: 2024

Pages: 356

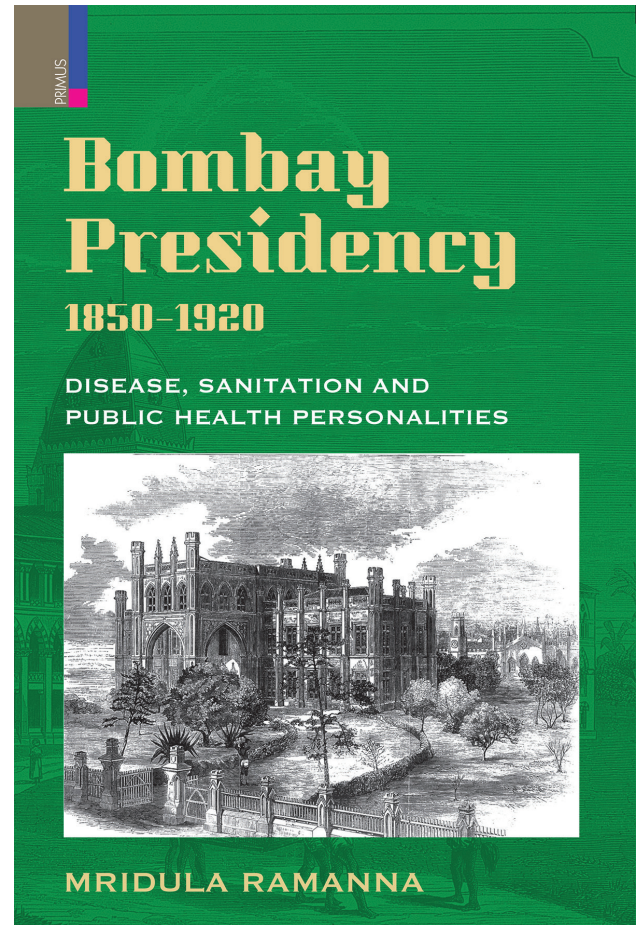
Price: ₹1450/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

*Bombay Presidency, 1850–1920: Disease, Sanitation and Public Health Personalities* examines the defining shifts in health and medicine, in Bombay Presidency, over seven decades. This work focuses on the major health and sanitation problems of the nineteenth century: the health of the European poor, battling alcoholism and venereal diseases; the views of Indian men and women doctors, about diseases, curatives and birthing practices; and Florence Nightingale’s interest in the Presidency, particularly her advocacy of village sanitation. Besides, the contributions of doctors B.K. Bhatwadekar and N.H. Choksy, to public health, through an analysis of their writings, are also explored in this monograph. The themes of the early twentieth century which emerge in this work are the review of sanitary improvements in *Urbs Prima in Indis*, regulations imposed on pilgrims passing through Bombay and at pilgrim sites, and the state of sanitation and disease control in the villages and towns. The book also revisits an important episode, the experience of Bombay in coping with the Influenza Pandemic of 1918, based on contemporary newspaper reports, and on reports of voluntary agencies, which provided relief.

**THE AUTHOR**

**Mridula Ramanna** is the former Head, Department of History, South Indian Education Society College, Mumbai. She has been the recipient of the Rockefeller Residency, Rockefeller Archive Centre, New York and has received grants from the Wellcome Trust, London for her research.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of History of Science and Medicine, Modern Indian History, History of Urban Bombay, Disease and Epidemic Studies and Medical Humanities.



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**MALIGNED MAVERICK**  
**Michael Madhusudan Datta**  
**Life, Letters and Literature**

**Author: Nandan Dasgupta**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-382-9

Year: 2024

Pages: 400

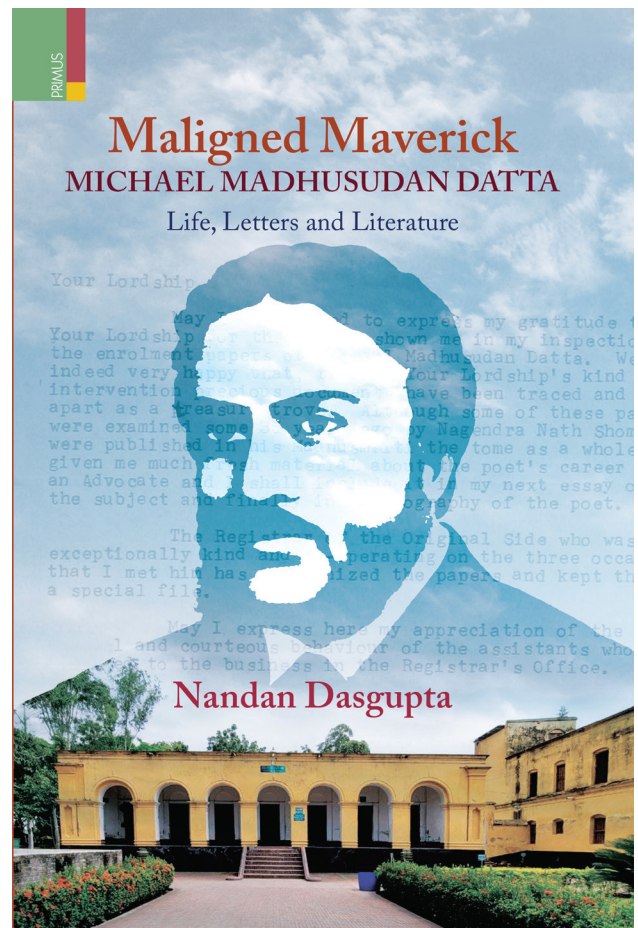
Price: ₹1750/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

The playwright and poet, Michael Madhusudan Datta is easily one of the most important and controversial literary figures of nineteenth-century South Asia—characterized by radical socio cultural transformation. Despite countless discussions by commentators and biographers he remains an enigma among the literary giants who straddled nineteenth-century Bengal. By demystifying Datta’s conversion to Christianity and by debunking myths of disinheritance, the alleged ‘desertion’ of his wife, misogyny, womanizing, alcoholism, and British sycophancy, *Maligned Maverick* re-examines the life and work of the pioneer of modern Bangla literature. This book delves into unexplored areas of his writings and quotes profusely from poems, plays, letters and articles, including Michael’s journalistic writings and his best-known controversial English prose piece *The Anglo-Saxon and the Hindu*, providing new insights into the mind of the maverick genius.

Analysis of the role of another towering personality of those times, the social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, also leads to some intriguing propositions. This book, the only biography available in English, discusses Michael’s varied encounters and the resultant range of reactions towards the British Empire. His aspirations in a colonial context and his disillusionment with it make for an interesting subject of investigation and in-depth study.

**THE AUTHOR**

**Nandan Dasgupta** is a Delhi-based attorney-at-law, and has edited bilingual (English and Bengali) literary magazines for over a decade.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students interested in Michael Madhusudan Datta, Literature, Bengali Literature, History of Bengali Literature & Modern Bengal, Women’s Studies and Indian Nationalism.



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**THE OBSERVANT OWL**  
**Hutom's Vignettes of**  
**Nineteenth-century Calcutta**  
**(Second edition)**

**Translated by Swarup Roy**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-029-3

Year: 2024

Pages: 338

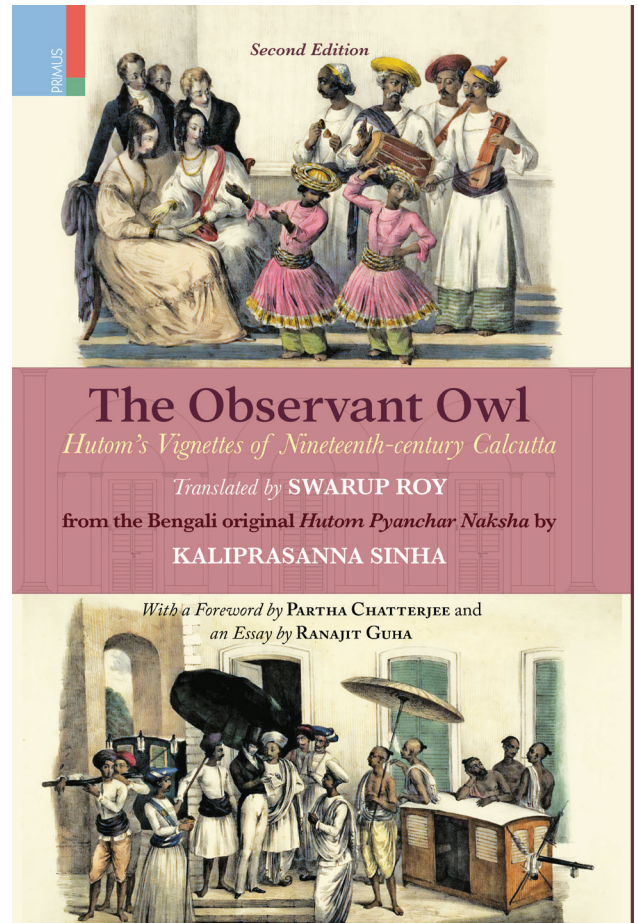
Price: ₹1095/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

*Hutom Pyanchar Naksha* (literally, 'Sketches by Hutom the Owl'), a set of satirical portraits in Bengali about ordinary life in the nineteenth century, is so popular that it has never been out of print since its publication in 1861–2. The author of the sketches, Kaliprasanna Sinha (1840–70), ran several literary journals, founded the Bidyotsahini Sabha (Association for the Cultivation of Knowledge), established a theatre house named Bidyotsahini Theatre to promote Bengali drama, published the Bengali translation of the *Mahabharata*, and donated generously to social causes and projects of social reform.

*The Observant Owl*, originally published in 2008, is the first ever English translation of Kaliprasanna's work. It presents a joyously irreverent portrait of the city he lived in. The writing is so vivid that one finds within these pages a sense of walking through a nineteenth-century city as fishwives call out their wares, housewives hurry to the river for baths, thieves pick pockets, and carriages creak through slush and rotting banana peels, carting passengers high on ganja.

In this second edition, the translator has revised the text to make some minor modifications, particularly with regard to the tense and aspect of the verbs. He has also added a new Introduction and more annotations to bring to date the discussion around this fascinating text and its context.

**THE TRANSLATOR**

**Swarup Roy** is Associate Professor in English at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Belur Math, West Bengal. His areas of interest are postcolonial studies and translation studies.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Literature, Literary Studies, Translation Studies, Bengali Literature and History of Modern Bengal.



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**THE SHATTERED EARTH**  
**Histories of Climate,**  
**Catastrophe and the Wilderness**

**Edited by Mili Ghose**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-903-6

Year: 2024

Pages: 370

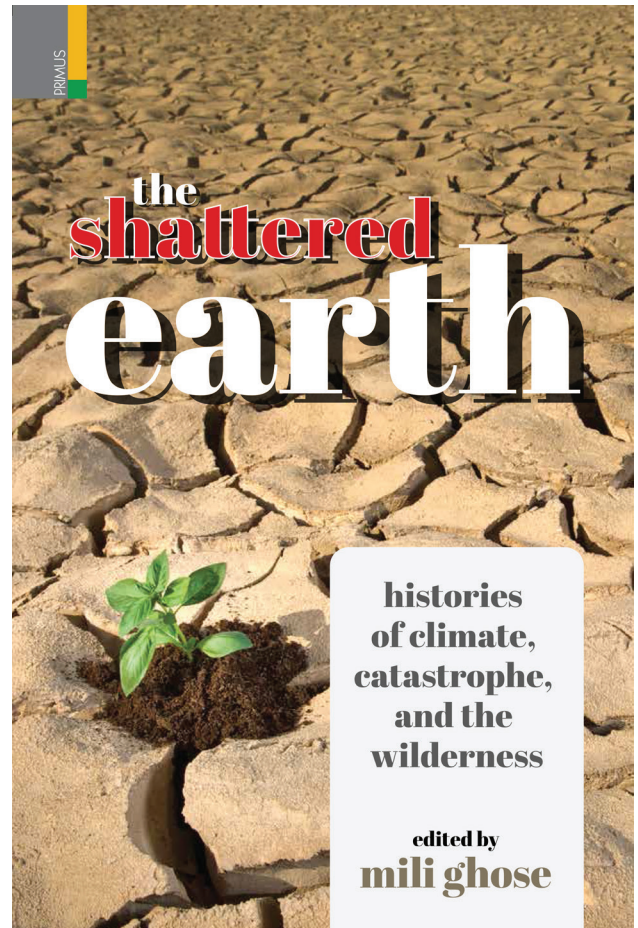
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**THE BOOK**

Global climate change poses a genuine risk to the survival of the human species and raises questions regarding human existence on the planet. *The Shattered Earth* brings together the writings of scholars who investigate global and local questions related to critical environmental issues including global warming and anthropogenic climate change. If we look at the history of global climate change, we can discern the areas where humans have been responsible for disrupting the environment. Humans have already shattered the earth through their lust for power and profit, and have eliminated a number of species for the sake of industries, construction of roads, and for countless other commercial purposes which resulted in the loss of biodiversity. Examining diverse aspects in three sections, this volume deliberates on historical aspects, ecology, and the wild as well as catastrophes as markers of this climate change and its reverberations in planetary life.

**THE EDITOR**

**Mili Ghose** teaches at Jadavpur University as a guest faculty. She was a Fellow at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata and a University Grants Commission Fellow at Jadavpur University.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Environmental History, Climatic History, Anthropocene, Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Colonial History and International Relations.



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**WAITING TOWN**  
**Life in Transit and Mumbai's**  
**Other World-Class Histories**

**Author: Lisa Björkman**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-019-4

Year: 2024

Pages: 172

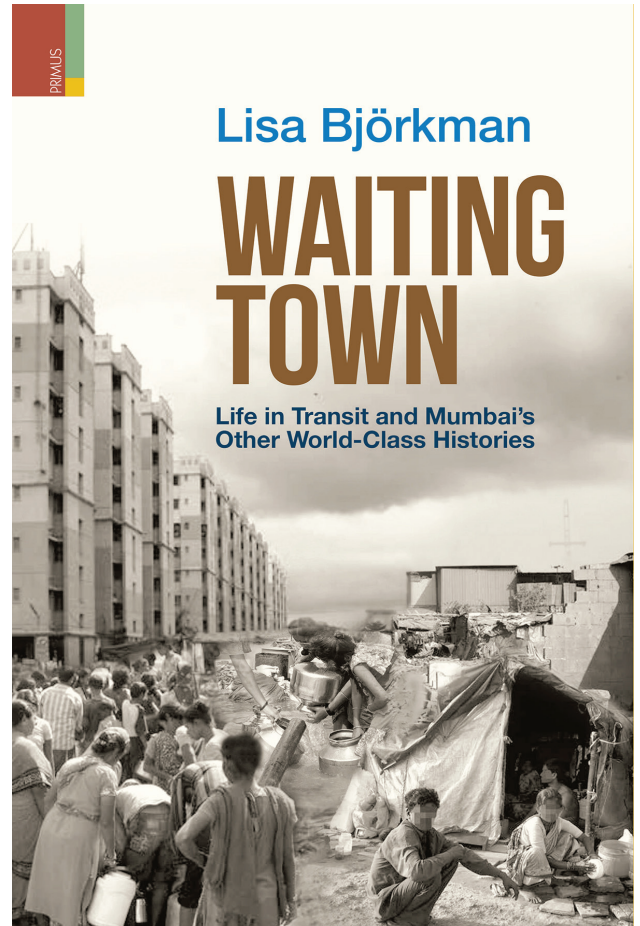
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Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

Drawing on a decade of ethnographic research in the Indian city of Mumbai, *Waiting Town* is an unconventional little book—experimental in form—about how we come to know the worlds about which we write. The narrative follows the author’s fieldnotes diaries as they wend their way through a series of ethnographic puzzles that emerge in the wake of a high-profile mega-infrastructure project that became an internationally celebrated prototype and model. *Waiting Town* complicates this celebratory narrative by revealing the conflicting temporalities and procedural pretensions of ‘world class’ developmentalism. On one level, *Waiting Town* is a book about Mumbai—about housing schemes and scams, about ‘duplicate’ documents (and ‘duplicate duplicates’), and about the material wreckage wrought by the city’s ‘world-class’ ambitions. And at the same time, it has a larger story to tell about truth and falsehood, time and memory—and about the promises and pitfalls of knowledge production, interpretation and representation more generally.

**THE AUTHOR**

**Lisa Björkman** is currently a senior research associate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Germany, and an Associate Professor of Urban Affairs at the University of Louisville in the United States.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Urban History, Modern History, Ethnography, and Sociology.



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**THE DYING LINEAGE**  
**The Crisis of Political Power in**  
**the *Mahabharata***

**Author: Uma Chakravarti**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-928-9

Year: 2024

Pages: 260

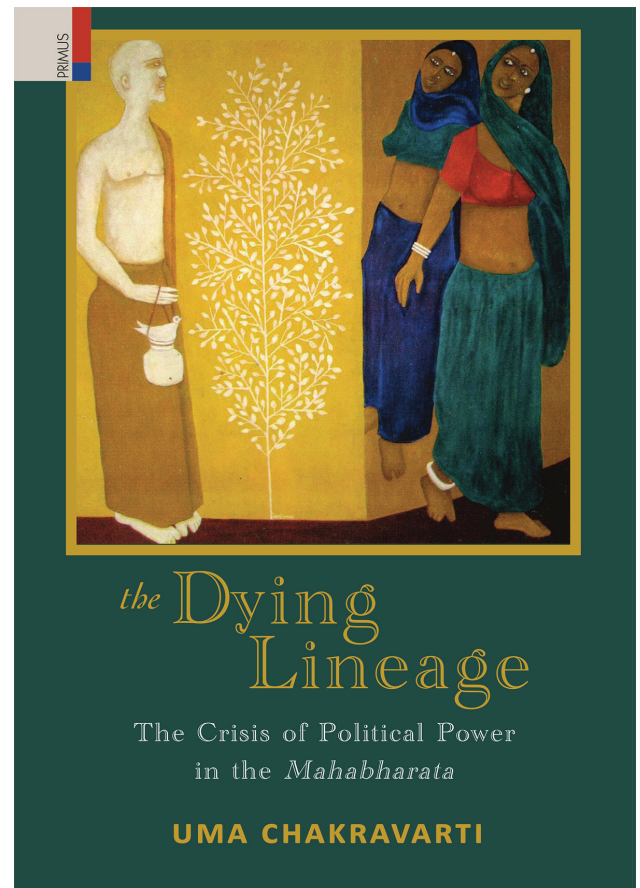
Price: ₹950/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

*The Dying Lineage* has at its core the crises of reproduction that underwrite Vyasa's *Mahabharata*, a text that best exemplifies the transitional moment from kin-based chiefdoms to monarchical kingdoms in the Indo-Gangetic doab in the mid-first millennium BCE. However, lineage building and putting orderly norms of succession into place was a fraught process. The Bharata patriline stared at its imminent extinction at least once every generation, barely perpetuating itself, and always faced with anxiety over its future. This feminist reading 'peoples' this story by bringing into its frame those who are on the margins of the royal household but cannot claim kingship. Reading against the grain, the book explores the link between caste, class and gender in a varna-ordered society. It examines how all three colluded with the patriarchs (and the occasional matriarch) to ensure the survival of the lineage. The fallout was the denial of women's sexual autonomy and the reifying of their wombs to create a field for the seeds of the Bharata men or their proxies. Consequently, an already imperilled and blighted Kuru lineage is torn asunder by fratricidal contradictions, leading to death and destruction, and the end of an era.

**THE AUTHOR**

Uma Chakravarti taught history in Miranda House, University of Delhi from 1966 to 1998.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Ancient Indian History, Gender Studies, the *Mahabharata*, Women's Studies, and Social History.



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**PURE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Parsi Theatre, Gender, and**  
**Performance**

**Author: Kathryn Hansen**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-790-2

Year: 2024

Pages: 472

Price: ₹1495/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



**THE BOOK**

For over fifty years Parsi theatre was famous for the sheer pleasure it brought to audiences in colonial India. It transformed the enjoyment of drama into a modern pastime. This cosmopolitan entertainment lured crowds to urban playhouses night after night with its passionate refrains of Urdu poetry and the melodious voices of cross-dressed youths.

*Pure Entertainment* traces how Parsi theatre wedded vernacular narrative and musicality to new stage technologies to create an aesthetic that appealed across classes and communities. Its performing women and female impersonators became the first media stars. It expanded the mythological, historical, and social genres, preparing the ground for the emergence of cinema. By running profitable companies, Bombay troupes travelled to ports like Madras and Rangoon, leaving behind an unmistakable legacy.

The fourteen essays in this volume represent Kathryn Hansen’s decades of research on the Parsi theatre. Her pioneering scholarship unites lifelong immersion in Indian languages with deep appreciation of oral performance culture and promises fresh insights for both, the general reader and the theatre specialist.

**THE AUTHOR**

**Kathryn Hansen** is a cultural historian and has worked extensively on Indian theatre.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Performing Arts, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Community Studies, Cultural History, Social Anthropology, Studies in Theatre.



**THE CEREMONIAL OF  
POWER**  
**The Mughal Empire under Shah  
Jahan**

**Author: Harit Joshi**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-905-0

Year: 2024

Pages: 527

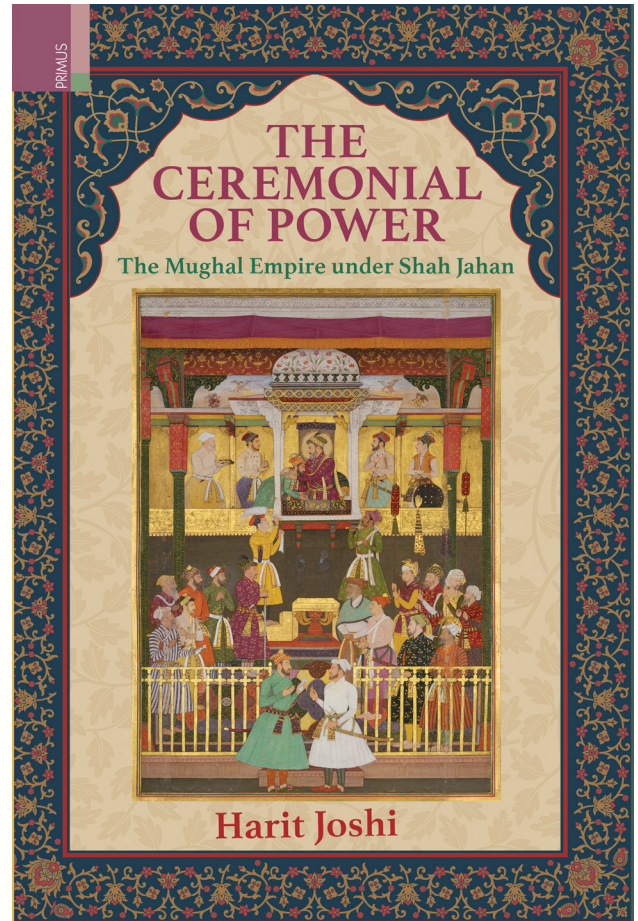
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**THE BOOK**

*The Ceremonial of Power* studies the court ceremonial during the reign of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (1628–58) and its use as an indispensable tool in asserting imperial authority. It examines Shah Jahan's portrayal in contemporary and later historiography through an analysis of the writings of the court chroniclers, the colonial administrator-historians, and their Indian counterparts. The volume sheds light on different features of the emperor's personality that emerge from the official discourse as well as other significant aspects of his reign: Shah Jahan's passion for architecture and the layout of his court; the emperor's relationship with his courtiers and their daily interactions; Shah Jahan's religious views and their influence on court proceedings; the ceremonial nature of his diplomatic exchanges with the other major empires of the contemporary Islamic world; and finally, how Mughal court ceremonial was reappropriated in the following centuries, first by the successor states, and then by the British.

**THE AUTHOR**

**Harit Joshi** is Maître de Conférences (Associate Professor) in the Department of South Asian and Himalayan Studies of the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris, where he has taught since 2002.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Medieval Indian History, and Mughal History.



## THE MONSOON CLOUD

### Poet Kālamēkam and His Irreverent Poetry

**Author: Suganya Anandakichenin**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-833-6

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Pages: 140

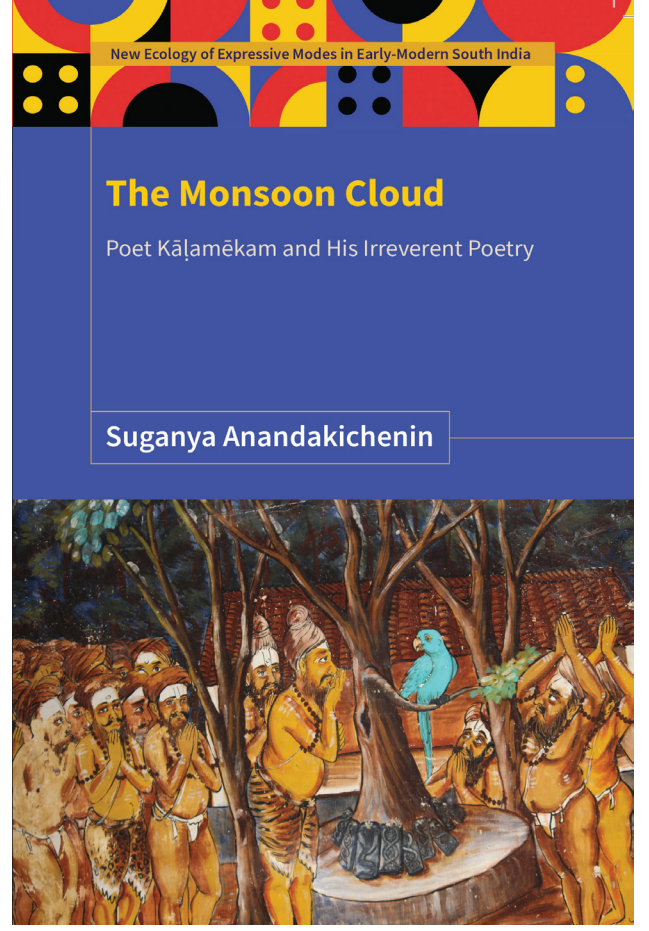
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### THE BOOK

A wordsmith, an extempore poet and a satirist, Kālamēkam (also known as Kālamēka Pulavar; fifteenth century) is widely known for his *tanippāṭals* or 'self-contained verses', on a panoply of topics. These splendid but notoriously provocative verses were composed during a transitional phase of Tamil literature, by now in deep conversation with Sanskrit poetics and poetic language, thereby yielding an incredibly rich and innovative poetry. Kālamēkam sings of courtesans, fellow humans, of gods, of animals, praises them, derides them, and insults them, using sarcasm, dry wit, and criticism, combined with *śleṣas* and *yamakas*, *samasyās* and *nindāstutis*. *The Monsoon Cloud* seeks to introduce this brilliant poet and his timeless and influential poetry, while analysing his humour, worldview, personal values, and devotion.

### THE AUTHOR

**Suganya Anandakichenin** is a research scholar affiliated with the Universität Hamburg (Germany), who mainly works in the field of Tamil Vaiṣṇava literature and theology.

### READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Literature, Sanskrit, Classics and Cultural Studies, Tamil Literature and Medieval South Indian History.

**ECONOMIC TRANSITION IN  
EARLY MODERN INDIA  
Production, Subsistence and the  
Market in Eighteenth-Century  
Bengal**

**Author: Rajat Datta**

ISBN: 978-93-6177-402-7

Year: 2024

Pages: 308

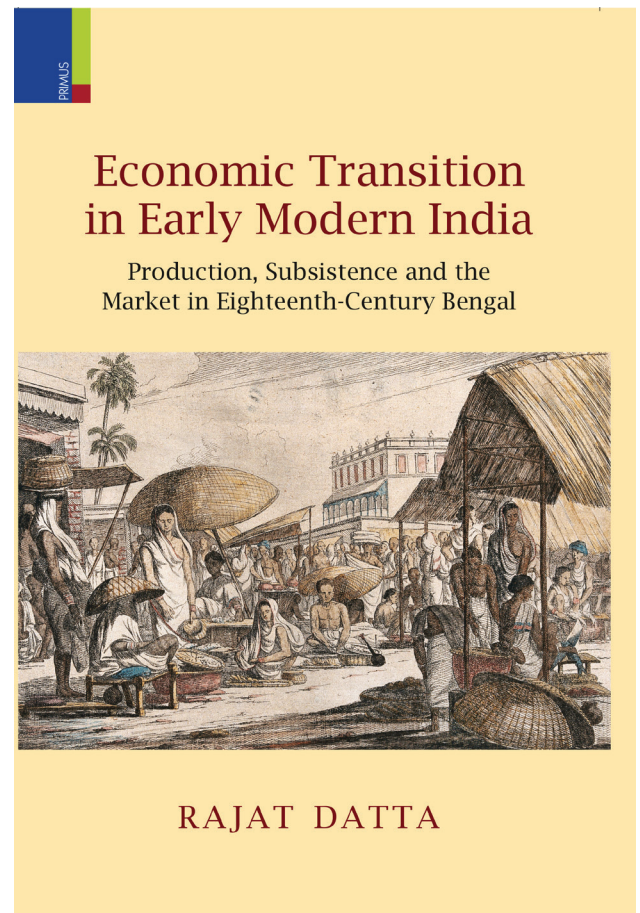
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**THE BOOK**

This book examines how the agrarian society of Bengal was transformed in the decades after the British conquest. While the focus is local, the arguments have a wider resonance. Datta revisits old debates, re-examines established orthodoxies, offers provocative arguments, and persuades us to rethink the history of late Mughal and early modern India. His arguments proceed at two levels. At one, he explores the working of markets: estimating bullion influx, trade fluctuations, price movements, and commodity flows. He shows how the internal trade between Bengal and other regions expanded, *bazars* and *haats* proliferated, with merchants and markets creating an interlocking network tying the towns to the countryside. At another level, Datta zooms into the rural areas to recover the lives of peasants. We see them engaged in intensive cultivation of their land with domestic labour, producing rice, lentils, mustard, mulberry and cotton, participating in an increasingly complex market network, negotiating monsoons and fluctuating harvests. Through a close study of the 1769–70 famine, Datta explores how such cataclysmic crises were produced, and what they meant to different sections of rural society. Deeply researched and engagingly written, *Economic Transition in Early Modern India* is an outstanding contribution to the history of early modern India.

**THE AUTHOR**

**Rajat Datta** (1956–2021) retired as Professor of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Medieval Indian History, History of Bengal, Economic History, Early Modern History, Labour History, Agrarian History and Environmental History.



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**LABOUR, DIASPORA AND MARGINALITY**

**Essays in Honour of Sabyasachi Bhattacharya**

**Editors: Yagati Chinna Rao and Hitendra K. Patel**

ISBN: 978-93-5687-004-8

Year: 2024

Pages: 612

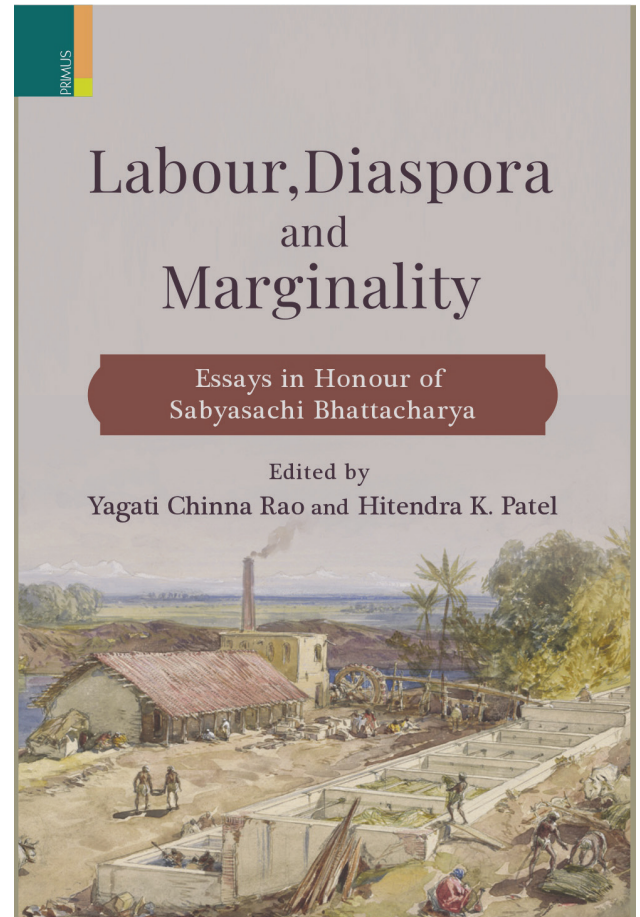
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**THE BOOK**

*Labour, Diaspora and Marginality* traces the intellectual legacy of Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya (1938–2019), a towering figure in the field of Indian history. He was an exceptional intellectual, infused with ethical sensibility and humanism. Beginning with his earlier forte in economic history, he eventually contributed to a significant trend in labour studies and gave shape to that turn within the specific context of India and other postcolonial nations. He left an indelible impression across the subfields within history such as education, and political, sociocultural and intellectual histories of India.

Professor Bhattacharya remains a great inspiration to generations of historians. This volume puts together articles by his former students and admirers that focus upon economic and cultural histories, labour migration, Indian diaspora, Dalit pasts, and Dalit identity through various protest movements and patterns of caste structure. The volume also delves into some social, cultural, literary and political trends in Indian history, such as the different versions of the revolt of 1857 as reflected in literary texts, historical studies on Indian education, and Gandhi’s idea of the Champaran Satyagraha.

**THE EDITORS**

**Yagati Chinna Rao** is Professor and Chairperson, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

**Hitendra K. Patel** is Professor and Head, Department of History, Rabindra Bharati, Kolkata.

**READERSHIP**

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Economic History, Cultural History, Indian Diaspora, Dalit History, Migration Studies, Labour History and Modern Indian Historiography.



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## NĀLANDĀ A Glorious Past

**Author: Anand Singh**

ISBN: 978-93-5852-951-7

Year: 2024

Pages: 674

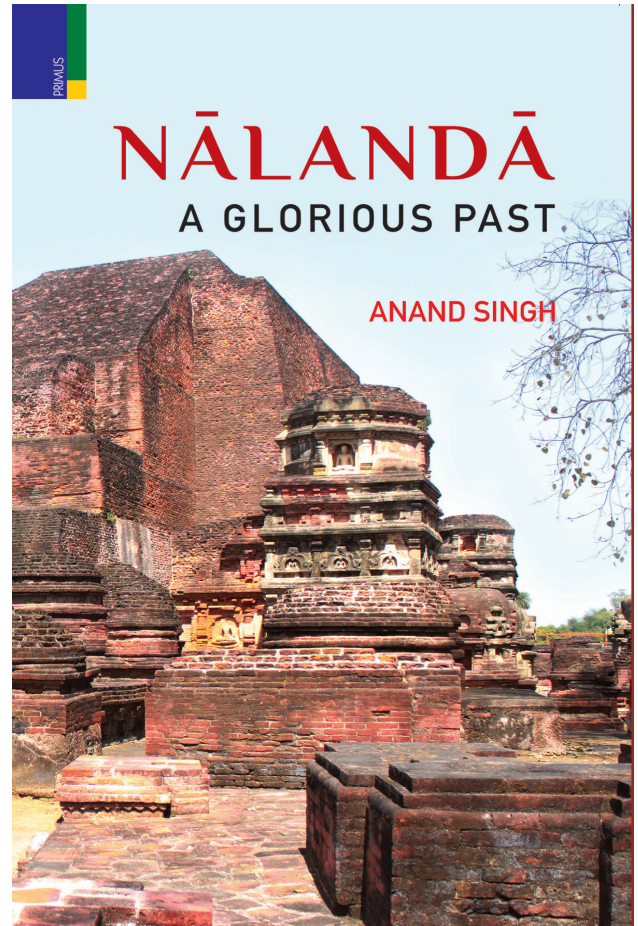
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### THE BOOK

This book deals extensively with various facets of Nālandā Mahāvihāra and its contribution to the vast expanse of knowledge and arts of Asia. Some of the important facets of the book are the origin and transformation of Nālandā from Vihārato Mahāvihāra, a brief sketch on Nāgārjuna, father of Nālandā scholasticism, formation of an academic culture at Nālandā, emergence of a book cult in Nālandā, worship of Tārā and the cult of Nāgas. Apart from this it also includes an analysis of financial management, water management, monastic structures, as well as Ārogyavihāra and school of medicine at this centre. Examining the maritime contacts between Jāvā-Sumātrā (Suvarṇadvīpa) and Nālandā as well as Nālandā's connections with ancient China, this work explores the efflorescence and decline of Nālandā Mahāvihāra.

### THE AUTHOR

**Anand Singh** teaches in the Department of History, at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. Formerly he was a Professor in the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy, and Comparative Religion at Nalanda University, Rajgir, and the Dean, School of Buddhist Studies and Civilization at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida.

### READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to South Asianists specialising in Buddhist Studies, Ancient Indian History, Indian Archaeology and Religious History.