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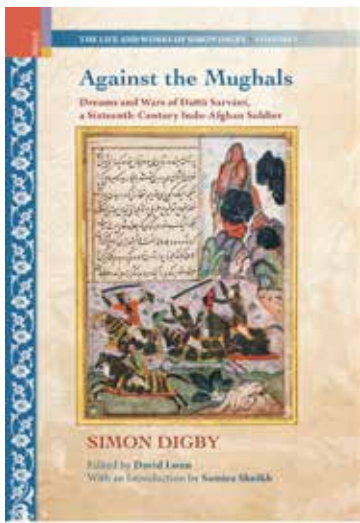
# THE LIFE AND WORKS OF SIMON DIGBY

The Life and Works of Simon Digby is intended to bring most of Simon Digby's publications, together with a large body of work left unpublished at his death, to new and wider audiences. The series stands as testimony to his extraordinary scholarship. Publication of this series has been made possible by the Simon Digby Memorial Charity (SDMC).

Simon Digby (1932–2010) was one of the foremost scholars on pre-Mughal India as well as a prolific writer, translator and Collector.

Editor

**DAVID LUNN** was the Simon Digby Postdoctoral Fellow at SOAS (2015-18), University of London.



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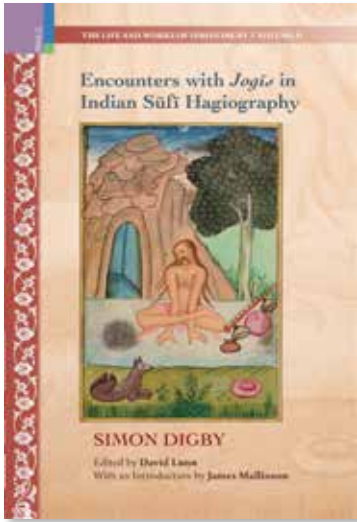
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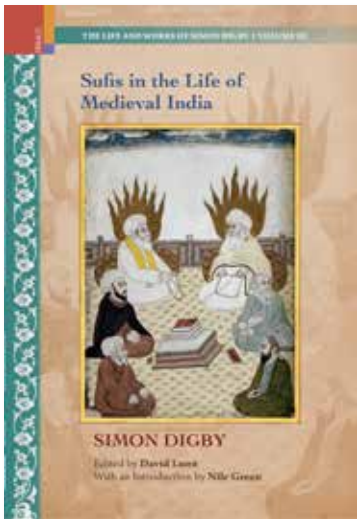
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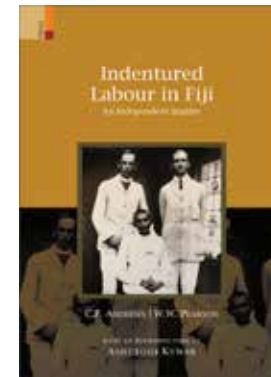
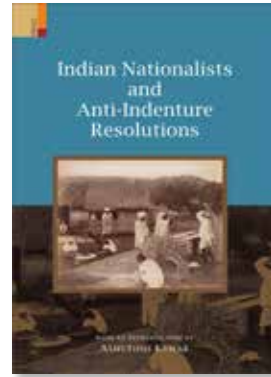
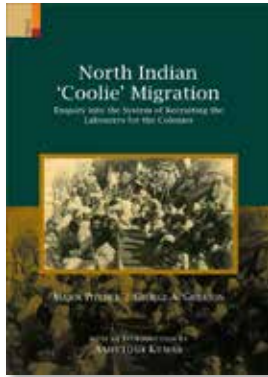
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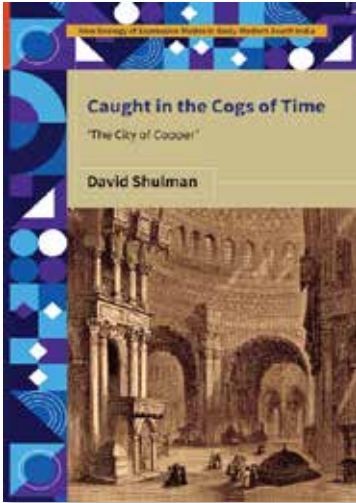
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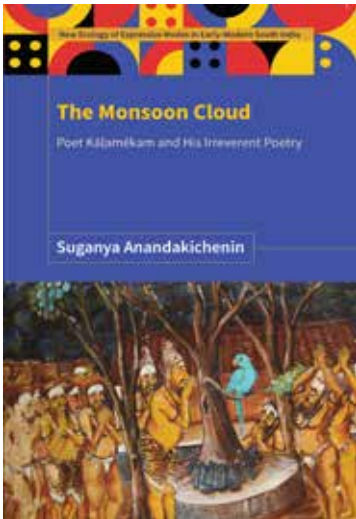
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**DAVID SHULMAN** is Professor Emeritus of South Asian Studies at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

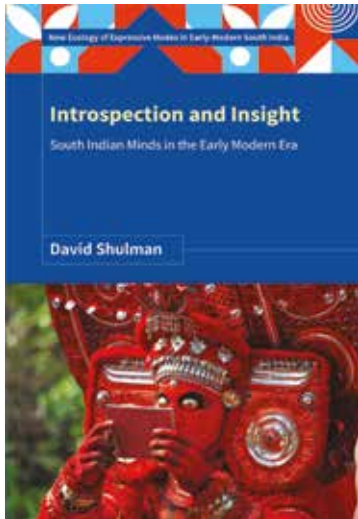


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**SUGANYA ANANDAKICHENIN** is a research scholar affiliated with the Universität Hamburg (Germany), who mainly works in the field of Tamil Vaiṣṇava literature and theology.



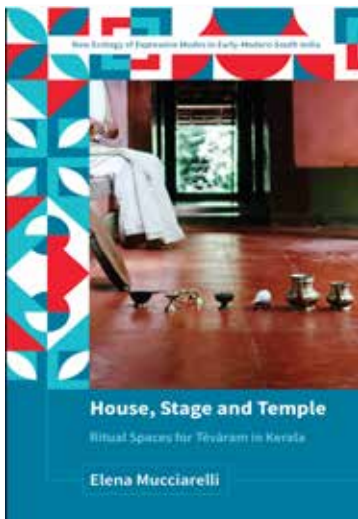
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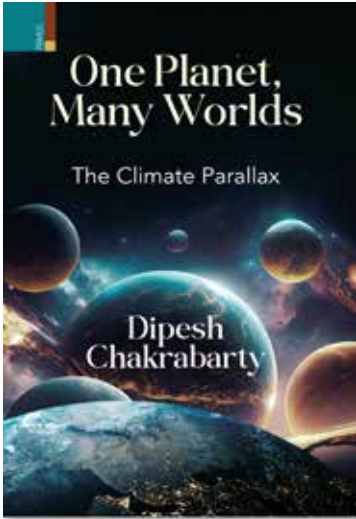
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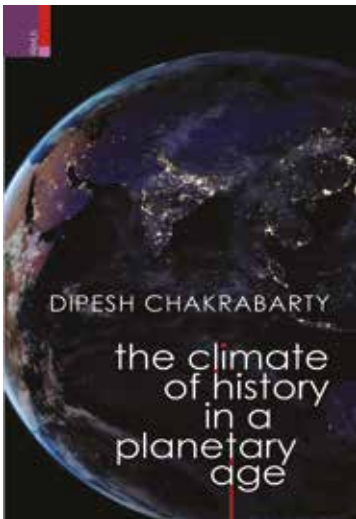
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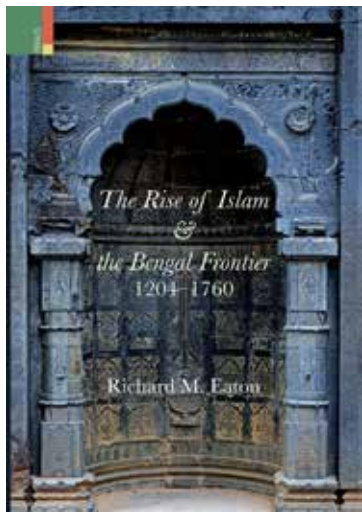
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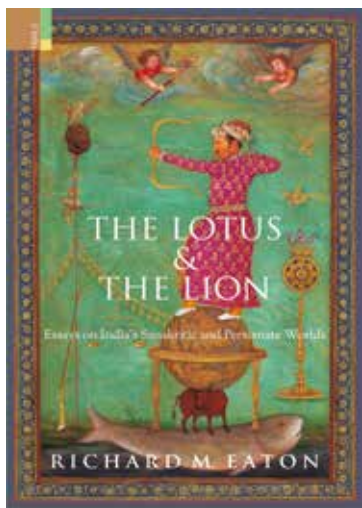


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**RICHARD M. EATON** is Professor of History at the University of Arizona, with a special interest in India from the eleventh to the eighteenth centuries.



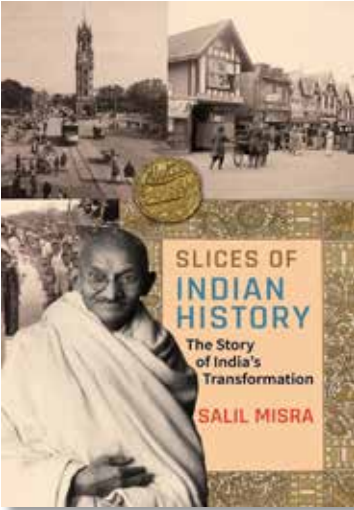
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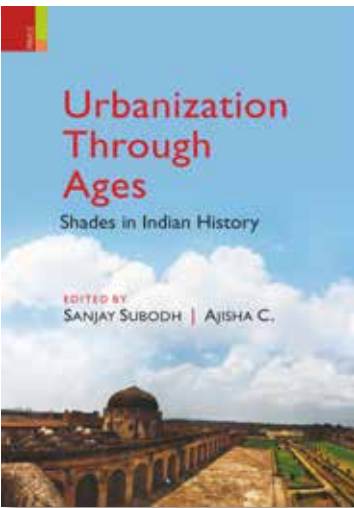
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**SALIL MISRA** is Visiting Professor at BML Munjal University. He has taught history at major universities including, Jamia Millia Islamia, Indira Gandhi National Open University and Ambedkar University Delhi.



ISBN: 978-93-7033-865-4  
286pp. • 2025 • HB • ₹1650 • \$56.95  
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## Urbanization through Ages

### *Shades in Indian History*

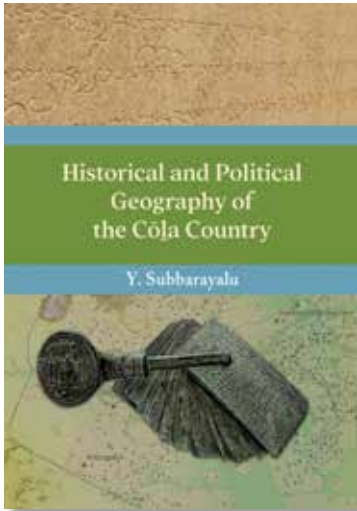
Urbanization and its wide-ranging complexities continue to engage the critical attention of historians and researchers. This volume is a collection of scholarly essays that explore and contextualize the evolution of Indian urbanity across various temporal and spatial frameworks. The essays delve into the challenges and significance of urban spaces in India, offering fresh perspectives and interpretations. .

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**SANJAY SUBODH** teaches history at the Department of History, University of Hyderabad.

**AJISHA C.** is a research scholar at the Department of History, University of Hyderabad.

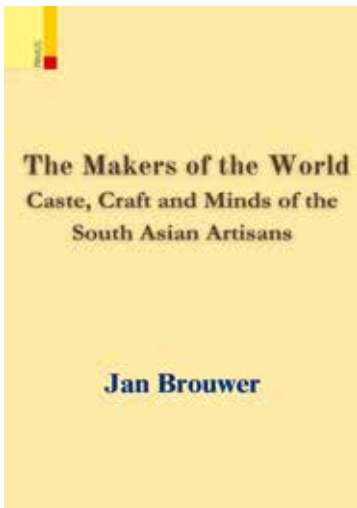


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## Historical and Political Geography of the Cōla Country

*Historical and Political Geography of the Cōla Country* is a revised and enlarged version of the author's work that was originally published in 1973. It deals with different aspects of the territorial units found in the Cōla period inscriptions (850–1300), from the village (*ūr*) at the base to higher-level territories such as *vaḷanāṭu* and *maṅṭalam*. Instead of simply considering them to be administrative divisions used for political purposes, their social and cultural aspects are studied here, while the associated social and agrarian groups (like *ūrār* and *nāṭṭār*) are given due importance in understanding contemporary socio-political organization. Several tables and maps have been added to this new edition, to organize and analyze the data provided.

**Y. SUBBARAYALU** was Professor in the Department of Epigraphy and Archaeology, Tamil University, Thanjavur from 1983 to 2001.



Forthcoming

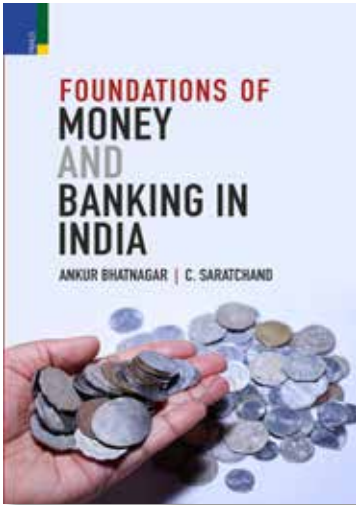
## The Makers of the World

*Caste, Craft and Mind of South Indian Artisans*

(Second edition)

This book offers a comprehensive examination of the artisan caste known as the Visvakarma, which includes sub-castes and occupational groups like blacksmiths, carpenters, goldsmiths, sculptors, and coppersmiths. Part One establishes the main themes and theoretical perspectives of the study. Part Two delves into Visvakarma crafts, covering raw material supply, manufacturing processes, product delivery, and associated rituals. Part Three presents a compelling overview of Karnataka's geology, geography, and history, contrasting the ideal of caste unity with the reality of sub-caste fragmentation, and explores Visvakarma mythology's influence. Part Four examines the Visvakarma sub-castes across Karnataka. Finally, Part Five unites the book's elements, integrating ideology, mythology, and daily life into a cohesive framework.

**JAN BROUWER** is Project Director for the Indo-Dutch Programme on Alternatives in Development (The Hague/New Delhi), and Director, Centre for Advanced Research of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (Mysore).



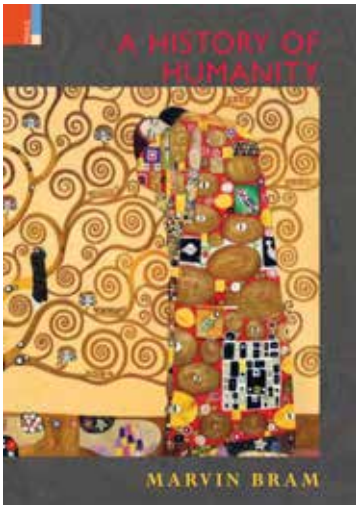
ISBN: 978-93-7452-404-6  
666pp. • 2026 • PB • ₹1150

# Foundations of Money and Banking in India

*Foundations of Money and Banking in India* offers a comprehensive study of the Indian monetary and banking system from a pluralistic perspective. The textbook aims to integrate diverse theories of money and banking with the Indian experience, at the same time placing national development in a broader international political economy context. From a pedagogical perspective, the text discusses contemporary and pressing issues such as Indian demonetization experience, financial crises, modern monetary theory, central banking in an open economy, and a critical comparison of New Keynesian and Post Keynesian monetary macroeconomics.

**ANKUR BHATNAGAR** is Professor, Department of Economics, Satyawati College, University of Delhi, India.

**C. SARATCHAND** is Professor, Department of Economics, Satyawati College, University of Delhi, India.



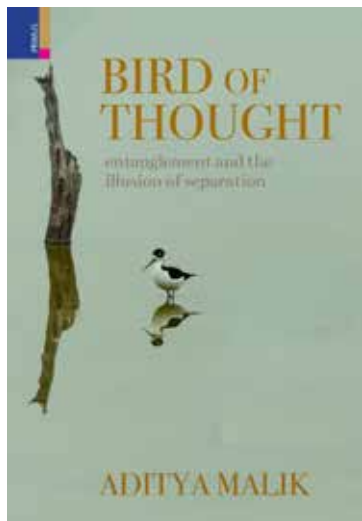
Forthcoming

# A History of Humanity

(Second edition)

*A History of Humanity* is the definitive symbolic history of the world. The methods of symbolic history revolve around permit (1) an account of the human endowment taking up thought, feeling, and behaviour from fruitful new perspectives, and (2) a correspondingly new account of global history from the point of view of the degrees of retention, surrender, and deformation of fundamental elements of the human endowment over time. Among the new perspectives informing the account of the human endowment are semiotics, neuroscience, and paleoethnobotany. They combine the the classical modes of analysis, social anthropology and social history, political anthropology and political history, economic anthropology and economic history, and cultural anthropology and cultural history, that are gathered and unfolded under the aegis of symbolic history, bringing to the narrative a unique clarity.

**MARVIN BRAM** is Professor Emeritus of History at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, USA.

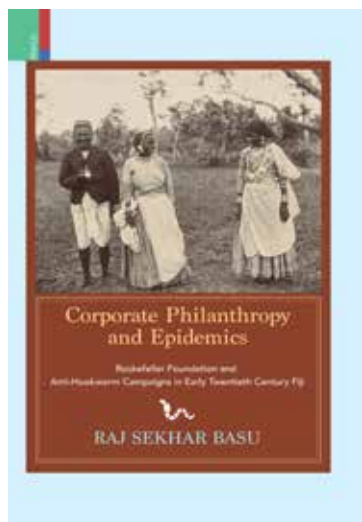


ISBN: 978-93-70335-51-6  
354 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1495

## Bird of Thought

*Bird of Thought* is an exploration into the idea of 'relationality' in conceptual and theoretical terms as the fundamental characteristic of all phenomena, processes, and events, including those involving conscious subjects and the world of objects they occupy. Along these lines, the author employs the notion of 'entanglement' found in quantum mechanics to create a new, re-imagined, 'prior-to-material' understanding of Earth as a field of possibility that gives rise to simultaneously occurring, inter-dependent, relational spheres of the biological, physical, and social. Interspersed within these themes is a discussion of literary and philosophical genres from different historical periods that articulate ideas of interdependence and harmony through dreams, alchemical visions, and rules of musical composition. The questions and materials here are placed within a transdisciplinary framework so we can begin to comprehend the immense complexity of the world which cannot be adequately grasped by specialized areas or disciplines.

**ADITYA MALIK** is Founding Professor in Humanities and Social Sciences at Plaksha University.



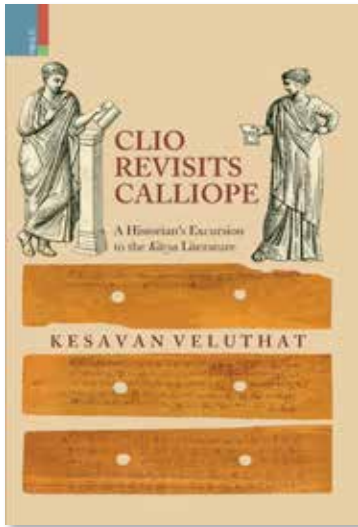
Forthcoming

## Corporate Philanthropy and Epidemics

*Rockefeller Foundation and Anti-Hookworm Campaigns in Early Twentieth Century Fiji*

This book examines the Rockefeller Foundation's involvement in the hookworm eradication programme in colonial Fiji, framed within the rise of corporate philanthropy in the United States during the late nineteenth century. Influenced by the Social Gospel movement, industrialists like Carnegie established foundations to address social issues. Inspired by this model, the Rockefellers funded the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission to combat hookworm in the American South, a disease dubbed the 'lazy disease' for its impact on worker productivity, particularly in plantations.

**RAJ SEKHAR BASU** is Professor in the Department of History, University of Calcutta, Kolkata.



ISBN: 978-93-6883-199-0

258 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹995 • \$39.95

• £34.95

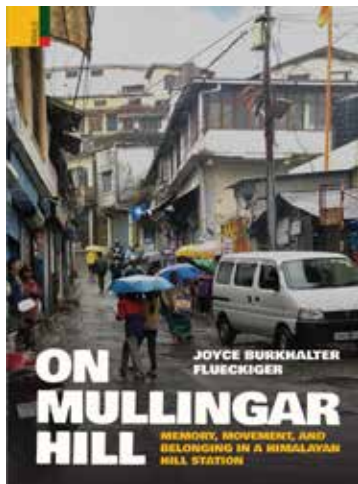
## Clio Revisits Calliope

*A Historian's Excursion to the Kāvya Literature*

The essays included in *Clio Revisits Calliope: A Historian's Excursion to the Kāvya Literature* analyse *kāvya* literature in Sanskrit, bringing to bear on it a sense of history. Taken up for study are the *kāvyas* of Kālidāsa, Bhāravi and Māgha, as well as a few *praśastis*. There is also a study of the Maṇipravāḷam poetry from Kerala, which partake of all features of Sanskrit *kāvyas*. The burden of argument in these essays is that even when the theme taken up by two texts are the same, each has a different flavour and character and that it is the social formation which produced a literary piece that determines them.

Although not planned and written as a disciplined monograph, the essays, when read together, will bring home the point that Clio, the muse of history, and Calliope, the muse of epic poetry, are not antagonistic to one another. They complement each other. A sense of history is essential in appreciating poetry; so also, a literary sensibility is a desideratum in understanding the past. It emphasizes that one will be able to understand by reading poetry what a thousand volumes of history books could not possibly tell us, i.e. it is possible to feel history rather than know it.

**KESAVAN VELUTHAT** has taught history in the Universities of Calicut, Mangalore and Delhi.



ISBN: 978-93-7452-828-0

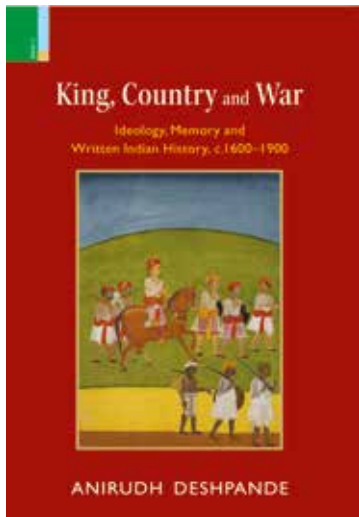
352 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹2450

## On Mullingar Hill

*Memory, Movement and Belonging in a Himalayan Hill Station*

*On Mullingar Hill* recounts oral histories and personal narratives of shopkeepers in Landour Bazaar, Mussoorie, whose families have helped create the culture and heritage of the Himalayan hill station. The book expands who 'counts', beyond colonial actors, in the making of histories of India's hill stations. While many shopkeepers or their ancestors—some of whose fathers the author knew growing up in Landour—have migrated from across northern South Asia, others continue to move to the bazaar from Garhwali mountain villages for economic opportunities. At the same time, many shopkeepers' descendants are now moving off the mountain for similar reasons; as a popular proverb observes, 'Pahar ka pani pahar ki javani—the waters of the mountain, the youth of the mountains', both go downhill. The continual movement in and out of the bazaar has created a unique local cosmopolitanism.

**JOYCE BURKHALTER FLUECKIGER** is Professor Emerita at Emory University.



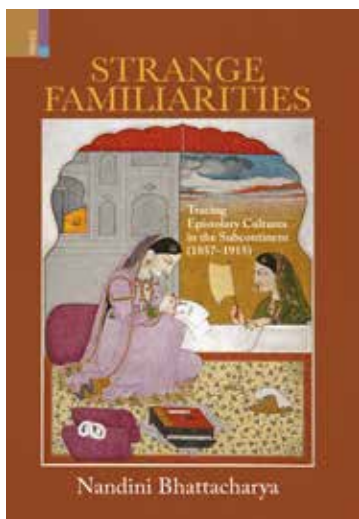
ISBN: 978-93-6627-478-2  
276 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1450 • \$52.95  
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## King, Country, and War

*Ideology, Memory and Written Indian History, c. 1600–1900*

To counter the influence of nationalist anachronisms on Indian historiography, *King, Country and War: Ideology, Memory and Written Indian History, c. 1600–1900* presents a critical analysis of six themes of Indian historiography: the historicization of the Indian mind, the role of individuals in history, *desh* and *rashtra* in pre-colonial India, forts in Indian history, the Third Battle of Panipat and hybridity in Indian history. The book asserts that deconstructing the ideological binaries which condition the Indian minds comprises the beginning of our quest for a critical appraisal of India's past. This book presents a serious interrogation of the theoretical assumptions of colonialist and nationalist historiographies which continue to influence the historical thinking of contemporary Indians. The book also brings to bear on its subject matter the insights provided by the 'micro history' method. After all, critical history is produced by the inevitable tension between the historian and his sources.

**ANIRUDH DESHPANDE** is Professor of Modern History, Department of History, University of Delhi.



ISBN: 978-93-6883-430-4  
340 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1450 • \$54.95  
• £44.95

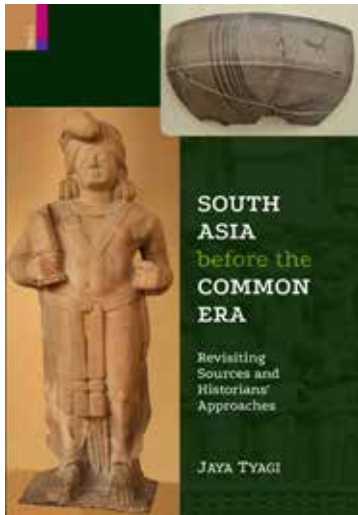
## Strange Familiarities

*Tracing Epistolary Cultures in the Subcontinent (1857–1915)*

*Strange Familiarities* traces epistolary traditions produced within the ethnolinguistic cultures of nineteenth-century Bengal and the North-West Provinces in colonial India. The book provides a close reading of texts and English translations of epistolary literature, selected due to their novelty and radical responses to the 'postal revolution' of the time.

Through the study of epistolarities, the book also directs the reader's attention towards cultural histories, especially the conceptual complexity of the 'subcontinent'. Trained as we are to see 'the subcontinent' through a post-Partition nationalist lens, and as a composite of distinct, bordered entities, this renders us less inclined to consider subcontinental cultures in terms of their interconnected histories. The book, thus, not only serves as a reader of nineteenth and early twentieth-century epistolary texts, it also acts as an archive and provides a glimpse into aspects of cultural history.

**NANDINI BHATTACHARYA** is Professor, Department of English and Culture Studies, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal.



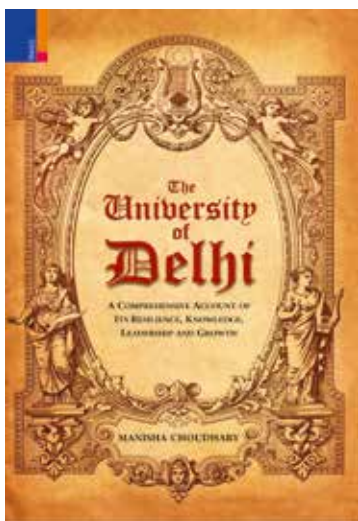
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892 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹2500 • \$94.95  
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## South Asia before the Common Era

### *Revisiting Sources and Historians' Approaches*

*South Asia before the Common Era* engages with the way in which the early history of the subcontinent has been reconstructed by recent historians, using the rich and varied sources from the region. Exploring the context in which artefacts and texts have been retrieved and interpreted, it traces the trajectories of how humans in early South Asia responded to their circumstances, the interconnections of communities within and beyond the subcontinent, and the multilayered and variegated histories of the region. The book examines the difficulties involved in gleaning information from prehistoric, protohistoric and early historic material remains and texts—exploring what they reveal, what they hide, what is now lost.

**JAYA TYAGI** has been teaching history in the University of Delhi for over three decades and is presently Professor in the Department of History.



ISBN: 978-93-7033-755-8  
613 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1995 • \$62.95  
• £49.95

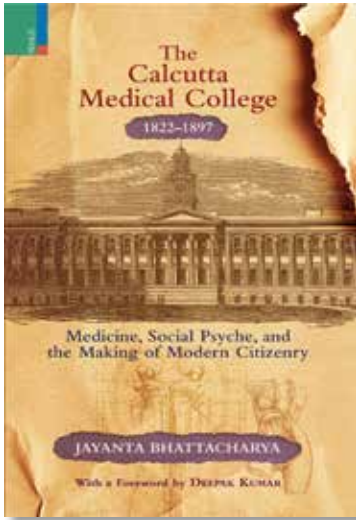
## The University of Delhi

### *A Comprehensive Account of Its Resilience, Knowledge, Leadership and Growth*

After the shift of the capital of British India to Delhi in 1911, the imperial administration noted the need for a new educational institution in the city. The University of Delhi was ultimately established in 1922, after many delays and a decade-long struggle.

Though originally conceived to serve imperial interests, the university underwent transformative changes. It has played an important role in the growth and development of the nation—participating in the nationalist movement, aiding refugees during Partition, and embodying the democratic traditions of independent India even in turbulent times. Over its hundred-year-long journey, the university expanded across the city and evolved to represent the mosaic of the nation, mirroring its struggles and aspirations. It provided an environment for academic and non-academic learning, a vibrant and open space for discussion, and maintained its standard of education and research. This book presents and commemorates the long journey of the University of Delhi.

**MANISHA CHOUDHARY** teaches at the History Department, University of Delhi.



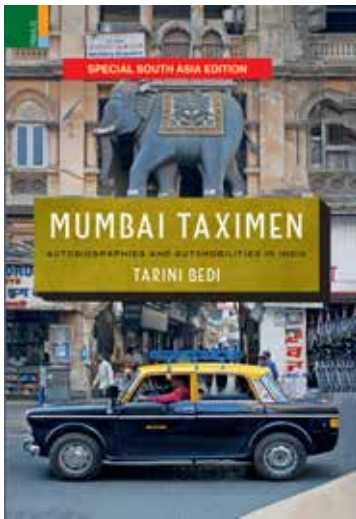
ISBN: 978-93-6883-062-7  
454 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1750 • \$64.95  
• £54.95

## The Calcutta Medical College, 1822–1897

*Medicine, Social Psyche, and the Making of Modern Citizenry*

*The Calcutta Medical College, 1822–1897: Medicine, Social Psyche, and the Making of Modern Citizenry* explores the history of the first medical college in India and its evolution through the nineteenth century. Established during the period of ‘hospital medicine’, the college paved the way for a paradigm shift in the field of medical cosmology. Not only did this lead to new governing and medical processes—such as dissections during medical classes, post-mortem examinations, and the use of medical tools like stethoscopes—it also had a great impact on the social psyche of the general populace of Bengal. As a result, the students of the college were indoctrinated into new kinds of discipline and governance—two requisites of the emerging semi-modern state.

**JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA** is a physician and researcher and has studied medicine at the Calcutta Medical College.



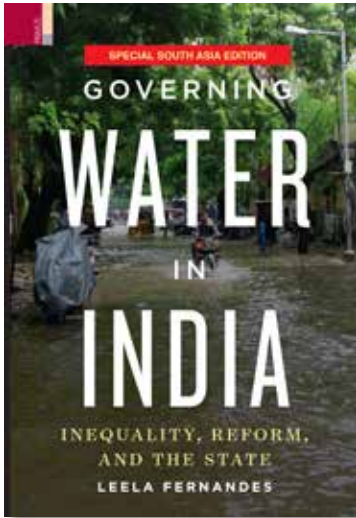
ISBN: 978-93-6883-750-3  
244 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1295  
\*Only for sale in South Asia

## Mumbai Taximen\*

*Autobiographies and Automobilities in India*

In this first book-length study of Mumbai’s taxi industry and of the livelihoods that surround it, Tarini Bedi draws from the lives and voices of chillia taxi drivers who have sustained a hereditary trade for more than a century. Bedi considers the Bombay taxi in all its forms: a material object that is driven, an economic and political connection, an expression of kinship, an embodiment of urban time and technology, and more. She illustrates how the accumulation of capital in this masculinized and mobile trade depends on forms of fixed domestic labor and an ethics of care, and how connections among these factors impact the production and reshaping of working-class personhood and laboring subjects. *Mumbai Taximen* provides a correction to this imbalance through a timely exploration of South Asian social, material, political, labor, and technological histories and practices of motoring.

**TARINI BEDI** is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.



ISBN: 978-93-6883-425-0  
 • 296 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1495  
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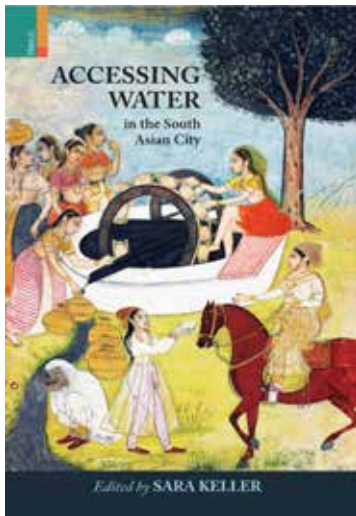
## Governing Water in India\*

### *Inequality, Reform, and the State*

Intensifying droughts and competing pressures on water resources foreground water scarcity as an urgent concern of the global climate change crisis. In India, individual, industrial, and agricultural water demands exacerbate inequities of access and expose the failures of state governance to regulate use. State policies and institutions influenced by global models of reform produce and magnify socio economic injustice in this “water bureaucracy.”

Drawing on historical records, an analysis of post-liberalization developments, and fieldwork in the city of Chennai, Leela Fernandes traces the configuration of colonial historical legacies, developmental-state policies, and economic reforms that strain water resources and intensify inequality.

**LEELA FERNANDES** is Professor of International Studies at the University of Washington.



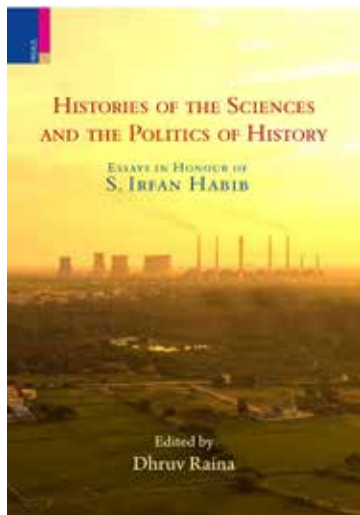
ISBN: 978-93-6883-991-0  
 452 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1695 • \$67.95  
 • £54.95

## Accessing Water in the South Asian City

Water has always been essential to cities, but more than that, it is a crucial element of urban life in South Asia, materializing through remarkable waterscapes and practices. Looking at a broad geographical and historical scale, *Accessing Water in the South Asian City* discusses the role played by urban socio-religious constructs in the shaping of exceptional, complex, and sometimes problematic, waterscapes. Besides examining the question of resources and inconsistencies in water access, the volume focuses on the forces that converge in facilitating or in impeding access to water in the urban context, in the past and in the present. Water is a political affair not just because it relates to power and politics, but because it is an essential affair of the ‘polis’, the urban community.

Editor

**SARA KELLER** has worked, since 2019, at the Max Weber Centre, Erfurt University on the architectural landscape of South Asian cities.



ISBN: 978-93-6883-869-2  
340 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1350 • \$49.95  
• £39.95

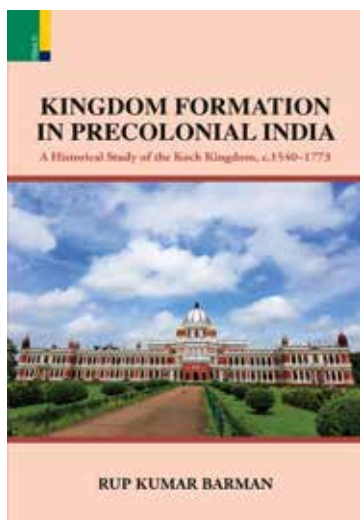
## Histories of the Sciences and the Politics of History

*Essays in Honour of S. Irfan Habib*

The history and politics of the pursuit of the numerous disciplines of the sciences is enmeshed with debates about the impact of colonialism and decolonization, their relationship with emerging 'global' concerns, popular and state-driven science policies of governments, as well as their linkages of languages and cultural expressions. All these have been concerns for research in the academic life of Professor S. Irfan Habib. In his honour, *Histories of the Sciences and the Politics of History* presents contributions by scholars who have associated and worked with him or have been his friends in his intellectual journey. This volume covers a range of subjects from the history of science in South Asia to the trends of science policies in different eras in independent India.

### Editor

**DHRUV RAINA** is Professor, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



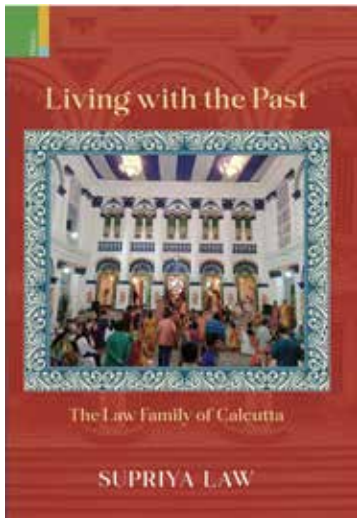
ISBN: 978-93-6627-915-2  
334 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1595 • \$59.95  
• £49.95

## Kingdom Formation in Precolonial India

*A Historical Study of the Koch Kingdom, c.1540–1773*

State formation in the Indian subcontinent has been a subject of research among historians and social scientists for decades. Based on their approaches and findings, scholars have conceptualized and propagated various models of early and secondary state formation. *Kingdom Formation in Precolonial India* explores the possibility of an alternative model of kingdom formation by examining the precolonial history of the Koch Kingdom, which flourished in the Tista–Brahmaputra region between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. It provides new insights into the role of warfare in kingdom formation, centralization of political authority, surplus appropriation through unusual means, monetization of the economy, and the correlation between legitimization of the ruler and cultural change of the ruled. This book may be of interest to students, academicians, and scholars studying north-east India and north Bengal.

**RUP KUMAR BARMAN** is Vice-Chancellor of Bankura University.



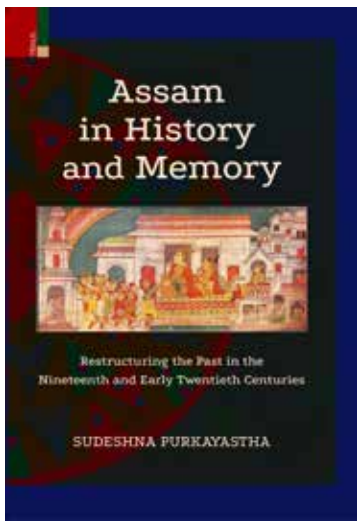
ISBN: 978-93-6177-909-1  
 378pp. • 2025 • HB • ₹1995 • \$69.95  
 • £57.95

## Living with the Past

### *The Law Family of Calcutta*

*Living with the Past* provides an insider's view into the history of the Laws (an Anglicized derivative of the Bengali surname 'Laha'), a Subarnabanik mercantile family that rose to prominence in the commercial world of mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century Calcutta. This study delves into the mercantile origins of the family, examines the functioning of the family firm, Messrs Prawn Kissen Law & Co. (established in 1839), and explores the religious life of the Laws. Written by a member of the family, this book juxtaposes archival sources with oral narratives and memories to share unique insights into the family as well as the intricate workings of their various religious beliefs and rituals, especially their opulent Durga Puja celebrations, which continue to this day. Primarily focusing on four generations, starting with Prawn Kissen Law (1790–1853), the book traces the linkages of caste, commerce, and kinship that contributed to building the reputation of this *bonedi bari*.

**SUPRIYA LAW** is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at the University of Calcutta.



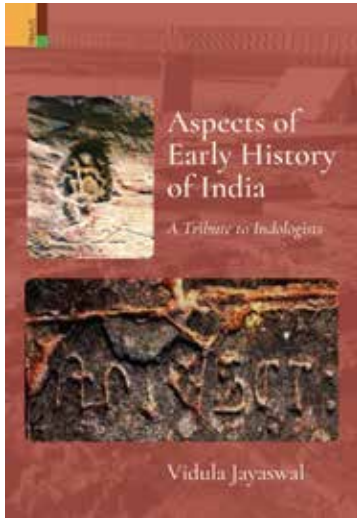
ISBN: 978-93-6177-867-4  
 352 pp. • HB • 2024 • ₹1550 • \$59.95  
 • £49.95

## Assam in History and Memory

### *Restructuring the Past in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*

*Assam in History and Memory* examines the shaping of Assamese historiography in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A major theme of this study is the fascinating local tradition of buranji literature, which gives primacy to historical memory and has played a key role in the creation of the modern Assamese past. The book also explores the complex relationship between vernacular historiography, Assamese nationalism, and the construction of an Assamese linguistic identity in the colonial and postcolonial periods. In tracing such historiographical transformations, the book identifies the changing political, social and cultural contexts in the colonial period, when the politics of identity were reworked and the modern Assamese past was restructured.

**SUDESHNA PURKAYASTHA** teaches history at Assam University, Silchar.



ISBN: 978-93-70336-29-2  
316 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1450

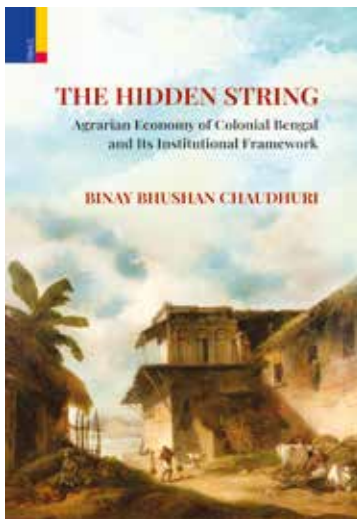
## Aspects of Early History of India

*A Tribute to Indologists*

*Aspects of Early History of India: A Tribute to Indologists* covers lesser-known but significant aspects of Indian prehistory and the early historical period, specifically the art and archaeology of the middle Ganga plain. Incorporating new findings, the book discusses the early stages of architecture in the subcontinent, now dated to the Early Stone Age (at Paisra, Bihar); the antiquity and nature of the Varanasi, the longest surviving city in India; and the beginnings of sculptural art and their artisans.

The volume pays tribute to nine stalwarts (Navaratana) of Indic studies, through ten themed chapters. Each chapter is preceded by a *shabdanjali* that describes the author's personal experiences with these scholars. The themes covered here, and their presentation in this book, make this a unique addition to the world of ancient Indian history.

**VIDULA JAYASWAL** is former Professor at Banaras Hindu University and served as Superintending Archaeologist at the Archaeological Survey of India.



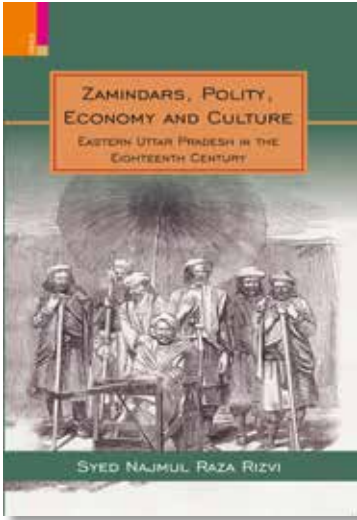
ISBN: 978-93-7033-013-9  
934 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹2650 • \$109.95 • £89.95

## The Hidden String

*Agrarian Economy of Colonial Bengal and Its Institutional Framework*

*The Hidden String* is a remarkable study undertaken over a two-and-a-half decades, and revisited after a gap of three decades. It examines the intricate relationship between agricultural practices and institutional frameworks in rural Bengal in the colonial period. At its core, the work elaborates two fundamental concepts: the nature of agricultural production and the institutional structures that governed it. The analysis of agrarian systems reveals how cultivation patterns were linked to ecological constraints and climate rhythms. Particular attention is paid to Bengal's principal crops—aus and aman—whose cultivation cycles shaped not only agricultural practices but also broader socio-economic patterns of rural life. The book also examines traditional water management systems, which not only consolidated power structures within village communities but also triggered peasant resistance.

**BINAY BHUSHAN CHAUDHURI** retired as Professor of Economic and Social History at the University of Calcutta.



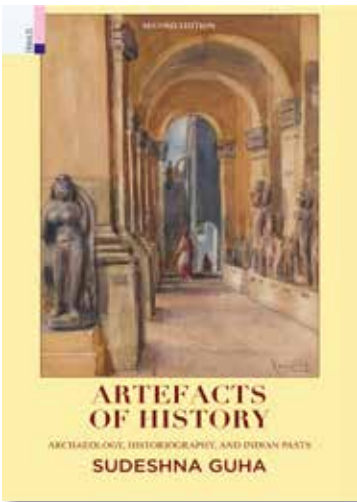
ISBN: 978-93-6883-018-4  
 355 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1695  
 •\$59.95 • £49.95

## Zamindars, Polity, Economy and Culture

*Eastern Uttar Pradesh in the Eighteenth Century*

*Zamindars, Polity, Economy and Culture* provides a micro study of the zamindars of present-day eastern Uttar Pradesh, which encompassed some parts of the Mughal subahs of Awadh and Allahabad. The eighteenth century, which this book covers, was a period of transition that saw the decline of Indian feudalism and the rise of nascent capitalism and large market towns. As the 'last guards' of Indian feudalism, the zamindars found themselves facing a difficult situation on two fronts: first, with the quasi-independent central authorities, and second, with their ryots. The zamindars played a major role in the disintegration of central authority and in weakening the quasi-independent kingdom of Awadh, thus leading to its downfall.

**SYED NAJMUL RAZA RIZVI** retired as Professor and Head of the Department of History, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur.



ISBN: 978-93-7033-523-3  
 508 pp. • HB • 2026 • ₹1800

## Artefacts of History

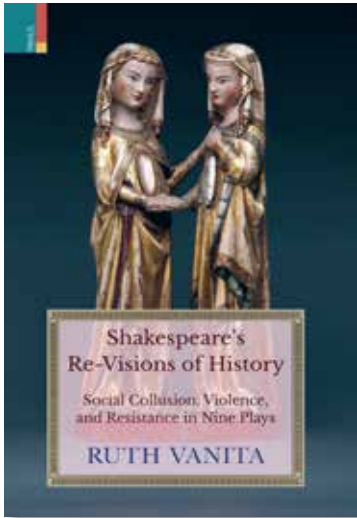
*Archaeology, Historiography, and Indian Pasts*

Through little-known histories of the practice, governance and scholarship of the archaeology of India, *Artefacts of History* examines the manner in which the past is recalled and historicized. It encourages a focus upon issues of historiography, methodology, and notions of evidence and regards the ways in which ideologies of cultural heritage and civilizational legacies are transformed into tangible and visible things through the archaeological scholarship. This second edition, with a new forward and a new note about 'Nineveh in Bombay', re-presents the importance of seeing the diverse linkages that constitute archaeology's histories.

**SUDESHNA GUHA** is currently a professor in the Department of History and Archaeology at Shiv Nadar Institute of Eminence (Delhi-NCR), India.

'This book dares to produce that critical look at the way archaeological knowledge is created and passed on in Indian archaeology and should jolt its institutional leaders out of their seats of scientific complacency.'

—B.D. Chattopadhyaya



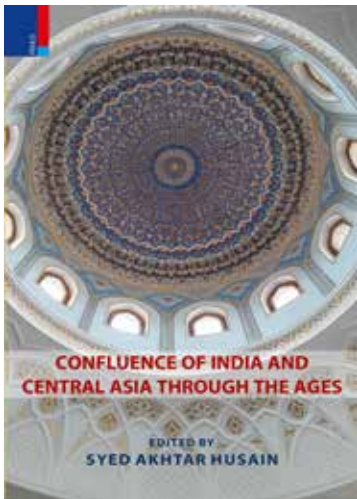
ISBN: 978-93-6627-400-3  
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## Shakespeare's Re-Visions of History

*Social Collusion, Violence, and Resistance in Nine Plays*

*Shakespeare's Re-Visions of History* provides close readings of important, widely studied Shakespeare plays, and puts forward some unique arguments. In *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Othello*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Hamlet*, Shakespeare depicts how violence is made possible by social collusion, both deliberate and inadvertent. Bystanders' acts of omission and commission allow groups such as Jews, old people, and women to be violently mistreated, and vulnerable individuals to be silenced and excluded. Vanita shows how Shakespeare's dramaturgy draws attention to this collusion through choric comments, understated irony, play with parts of speech, and songs.

**RUTH VANITA** is currently Professor Emerita, University of Montana and the author of two novels and many non-fiction works.



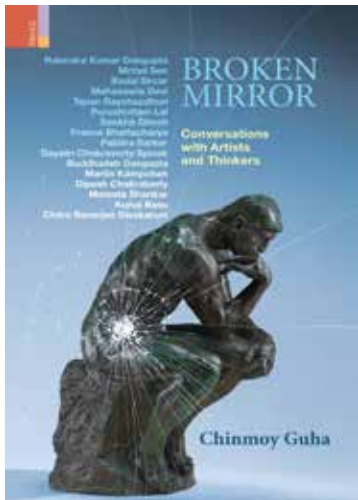
ISBN: 978-93-6883-941-5  
 • 376 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1450 • \$54.95  
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## Confluence of India and Central Asia through the Ages

*Confluence of India and Central Asia through the Ages* is a compendium of papers presenting the colourful past and promising future of Central and South Asia. Scholars have discussed Buddhism as the leitmotif of the Silk Route, criss-crossing Asia, in this book. The volume also deals with Persian and Urdu texts which demonstrate the cultural richness of the regions. Equally good number of chapters in the book give insight into connectivity, multilateralism, threats of terrorism to and hopes of peaceful coexistence and cooperation for India and Central Asia.

Editor

**SYED AKHTAR HUSAIN** is Professor at the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and President of the Institute of Indo-Persian Studies, New Delhi.



ISBN: 978-93-6177-507-9

328pp. • 2025 • HB • ₹1250 • \$49.95  
• £39.95

## Broken Mirror

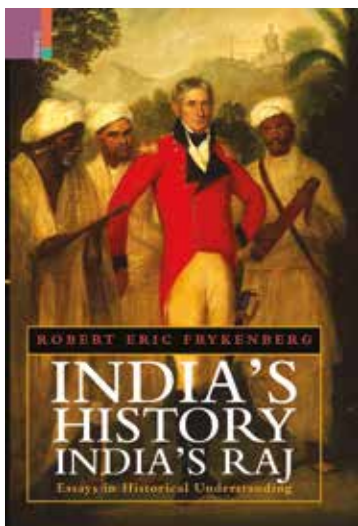
*Conversations with Artists and Thinkers*

*Broken Mirror* captures the life-experiences, worldviews, hopes and frustrations of several leading cultural personalities who have left a deep imprint on the shaping of the Indian ethos. The individuals represented here cover a significantly wide range of authors, filmmakers, scholars, artists and critics who simultaneously represent Bengal and India.

'This is a book of 'conversations' with educated, self-aware Bengalis, all of them born across a span of 40 years of the 20th century, from Rabindra Kumar Dasgupta, the litterateur, born in 1915, to Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, the novelist, born in 1956. It is a distinguished gallery of historians: Tapan Raychaudhuri, Dipesh Chakrabarty; filmmakers: Mrinal Sen, Buddhadeb Dasgupta; novelists: Kunal Basu, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni; playwrights: Mahasweta Devi, Badal Sircar; poets: Sankha Ghosh, Purushottam Lal and translators: France Bhattacharya, Martin Kampchen. What connects them all are some common cultural coordinates— Kolkata, Presidency College, Rabindranath Tagore, Bengal's Renaissance, politics, society, culture and Europe.'

—Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr, senior journalist and political commentator.

**CHINMOY GUHA** is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Calcutta and an author and translator.



ISBN: 978-93-91144-44-9

• 744pp • 2023 • HB • ₹1995 • \$84.95  
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## India's History India's Raj

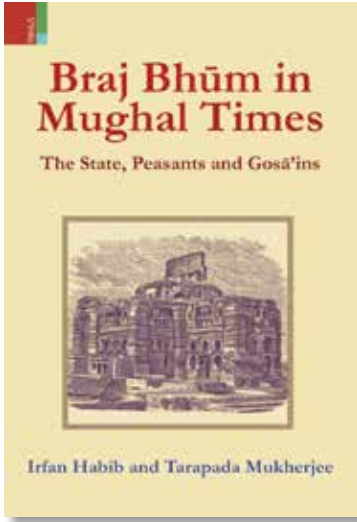
*Essays in Historical Understanding*

*India's History, India's Raj: Essays in Historical Understanding* highlights the myriad facets in the story of how Indians themselves participated in the construction not only of the Indian Raj but of Indian history.

'It is a testimony to the longevity and relevance of Frykenberg's work that such questions are still debated in the historiography of India. His scholarship does more than survive the tests of time. It presents a perspective that is worthy of engagement, especially for those who tend to ignore the role of Indians in turning the wheels of empire. More recently, writers such as William Dalrymple are drawing attention to the Indian financing of Company rule (Chettiers and Jagat Seths), the vast size of the Company's army (comprised mostly of Indians), and the important distinction between the Company's power and British power. These are observations Frykenberg has made over decades of scholarship, and they are elegantly presented in the articles of this impressive volume.'

—Chandra Mallampalli, *International Journal of Asian Christianity*

**ROBERT ERIC FRYKENBERG** is Emeritus Professor of History and South Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison.



ISBN: 978-93-89850-22-2  
 •298pp. • 2020 • HB • ₹1095 • \$54.95  
 •£46.95

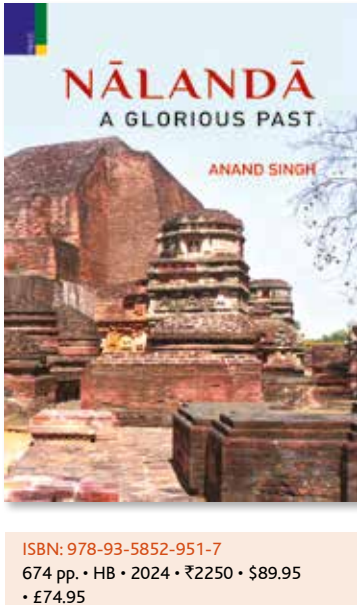
## Braj Bhūm in Mughal Times

*The State, Peasants and Gosā'ins*

*Braj Bhūm in Mughal Times: The State, Peasants and Gosā'ins* represents a unique effort at presenting the conditions of life of the ordinary people in a small region of the Mughal Empire from about the accession of Akbar (1556) to the collapse of Mughal power (1739). The study brings out how the Mughal administration functioned on the ground, how peasant communities were organized and religious men conducted their worldly affairs.

**IRFAN HABIB** (b. 1931). Educated till M.A. at Aligarh, with D.Phil. from Oxford 1958, he taught from 1953 to 1994 at Aligarh where he is now Professor Emeritus.

**TARAPADA MUKHERJEE** (1928–90). Educated, Calcutta and Vishva Bharati, he obtained his doctoral degree (1959) from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, with a thesis on Brajbuli poetry.



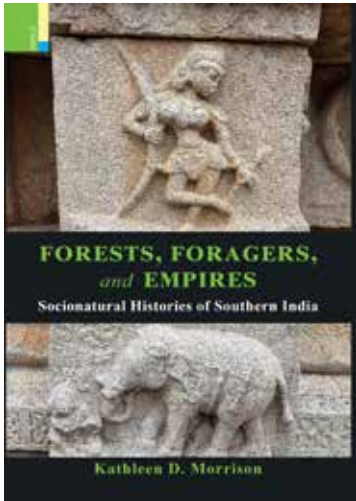
ISBN: 978-93-5852-951-7  
 674 pp. • HB • 2024 • ₹2250 • \$89.95  
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## Nālandā

*A Glorious Past*

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.

**ANAND SINGH** teaches in the Department of History, at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow.



ISBN: 978-93-5852-034-7

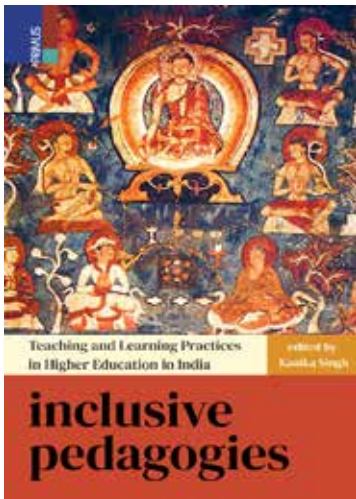
459 pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹1695 • \$64.95  
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# Forests, Foragers, and Empires

## *Socionatural Histories of Southern India*

*Forests, Foragers, and Empires: Socionatural Histories of Southern India* explores the complex histories of south Indian forests and foragers, focusing on historical recognitions and misrecognitions emerging from prior assumptions about human and non-human history, and about presumed fundamental characteristics of ‘nature’ and ‘culture’. Many of these essays focus on the hunting and gathering peoples of southern India, especially as they have articulated with others throughout the Holocene. Other essays consider the larger-scale landscape histories within which these are situated, from the forests themselves to local and long-standing networks of production, trade, and power. These histories include multiple forms of agency—kings, hunters, merchants, farmers, sailors, city-dwellers, and of course plants, animals, and the forests themselves.

**KATHLEEN D. MORRISON** is the Sally and Alvin V. Shoemaker Professor of Anthropology and Lead Curator, Asian Section, at the University of Pennsylvania Museum.



ISBN: 978-93-6177-124-8

205pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹1195 • \$44.95  
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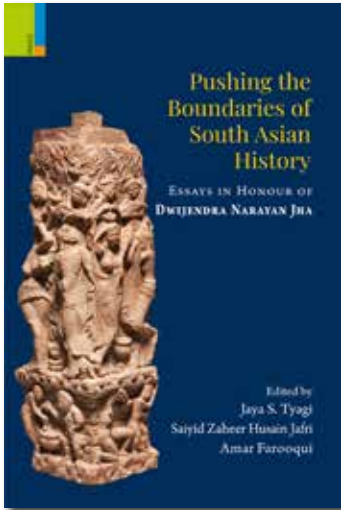
# Inclusive Pedagogies

## *Teaching and Learning Practices in Higher Education in India*

*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.

Editor

**KANIKA SINGH** is Director, Centre for Writing and Communication, Ashoka University, Haryana.



ISBN: 978-93-5852-668-4  
603 pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹1650 • \$69.95  
• £59.95

## Pushing the Boundaries of South Asian History

*Essays in Honour of Dwijendra Narayan Jha*

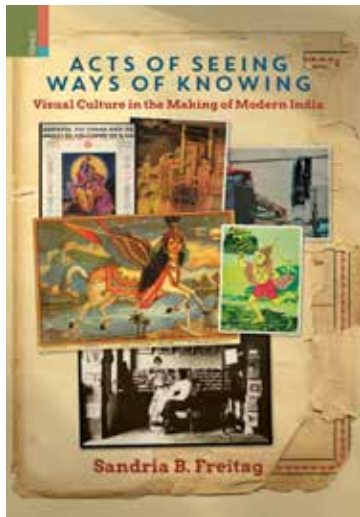
*Pushing the Boundaries of South Asian History* is a tribute to Professor Dwijendra Narayan Jha's skill and craftsmanship as a historian. He was an outstanding scholar, who constantly reinvented himself and kept abreast of changes in historical perspectives and methodology. The chapters herein, organized 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.

### Editors

**JAYA TYAGI** is Professor in the Department of History, University of Delhi.

**S.Z.H. 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.



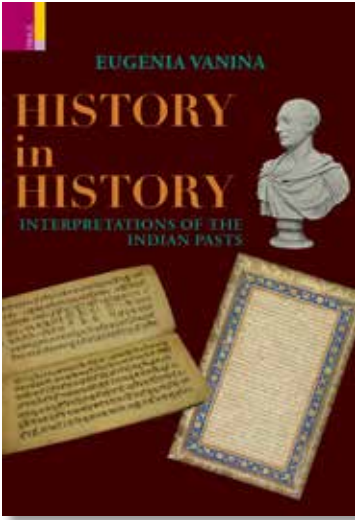
ISBN: 978-93-6627-188-0  
436 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1995 • \$72.95  
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## Acts of Seeing, Ways of Knowing

*Visual Culture in the Making of Modern India*

*Acts of Seeing, Ways of Knowing: Visual Culture in the Making of Modern India* refracts the nineteenth and twentieth centuries history of India through reception of the first two 'mass' forms of visual culture, photography and posters (those with the capacity to produce multiple copies). India's responses to a changing public world are revealed, intriguingly, through this visual-culture repertoire. Production and consumption of these material objects revolve especially around visual culture's capacity to prompt and express identity-narratives that draw on the nexus of a dramatic expansion of consumption practices with individual efforts to construct meaning by collecting, displaying, designing, and interacting with mass-produced materials.

**SANDRIA B. FREITAG** teaches History at North Carolina State University and received her PhD from the University of California-Berkeley.



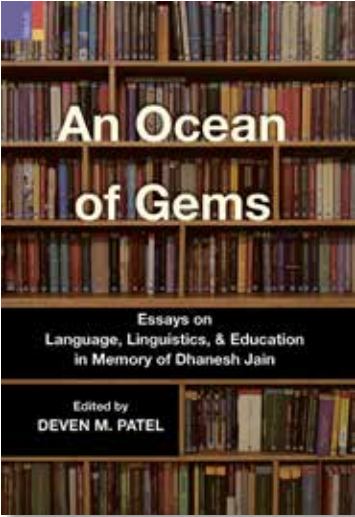
ISBN: 978-93-6177-265-8  
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## History in History

### *Interpretations of the Indian Pasts*

*History in History: Interpretations of the Indian Pasts* is not about the history of India but about the evolution of the conception of history in India. As a record and reconstruction of the past, as social perception and as an important part of national, group or individual mindset, development of this consciousness through the epochs differs not only in techniques, forms of socio-political organization and values but also by how people recall their past, inquiring the bygone times to understand their present and future.

**EUGENIA VANINA** is Chief Researcher, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences.



ISBN: 978-93-6627-390-7  
212 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1095 • \$42.95  
• £34.95

## An Ocean of Gems

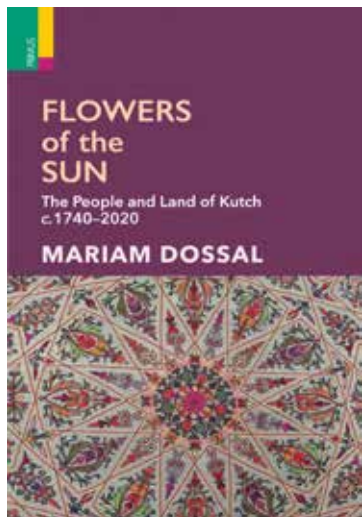
### *Essays on Language, Linguistics, and Education in Memory of Dhanesh Jain*

*An Ocean of Gems* is dedicated to Dr Dhanesh Jain (1939–2019), distinguished scholar of Indian sociolinguistics and founder of Ratna Sagar, parent company of Primus Books. He was also a dedicated academic and co-editor, with George Cardona, of *The Indo-Aryan Languages*, a seminal reference work on the subject. As a publisher, Dhanesh Jain was an inspiration to authors and readers, tirelessly advocating and pragmatically supporting the Indian academic publishing industry with high-calibre academic reference books and Indological scholarship. As a scholar and reviewer for major presses, he recognized the urgent need for such a publishing enterprise in the humanities and social sciences, particularly in the discipline of South Asian languages. To this day, Primus Books provides a viable alternative publishing platform to academics globally.

This memorial volume of essays by prominent scholars of Indian languages and linguistics aims not only to honour Dhanesh Jain but also hopes to encourage those who pursue his footsteps in scholarship, editing, or publishing to maintain the purity of purpose and ceaseless efforts necessary to ensure that the best of humanistic knowledge about South Asia is preserved for posterity in India and across the world.

**Editor**

**DEVEN M. PATEL** is a Sanskrit scholar, translator, and professor in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, USA.



ISBN: 978-93-6883-866-1

472 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1995 • \$74.95

• £64.95

## Flowers of the Sun

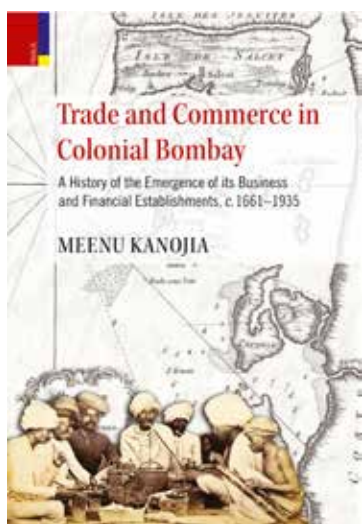
*The People and Land of Kutch, c.1740–2020*

*Flowers of the Sun: The People and Land of Kutch, c.1740–2020* examines Kutch's rich and fascinating history, spanning nearly three centuries. It highlights the strong Sufi tradition of Kutch, the shared love of the land and the awareness that survival in the harsh environment requires cooperation and innovation, 'mil and mithas', friendship and sweetness.

"Mariam Dossal's *Flowers of the Sun* explores the distinctiveness of the region's traditions, placing them in a historical context, and at the same time underlining that the 'book is not intended to glorify Kutch'. She declares that if the special features of Kutch are 'levelled, lost'; 'it is not Kutch and Kutchis alone who would lose, but India would be poorer having lost the opportunity to be enriched by difference'."

-Amar Farooqui, formerly at University of Delhi

**MARIAM DOSSAL** is former Professor at the Department of History, University of Mumbai.



ISBN: 978-93-6627-219-1

350 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1495 • \$59.95

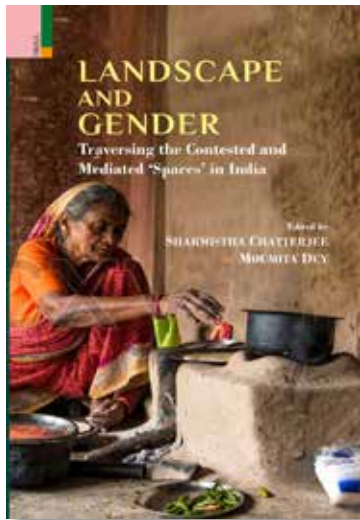
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## Trade and Commerce in Colonial Bombay

*A History of the Emergence of its Business and Financial Establishments, c.1661–1935*

*Trade and Commerce in Colonial Bombay* examines the evolutionary history of the Bombay Mint along with the banking institutions which led to an efflorescence of trade and commerce in colonial Bombay. From a small trading island in the seventeenth century, Bombay developed into a financial centre during British rule. The book also investigates the effect of import of bullion from parts of South America, Europe, and Asia and its role in India's economic development. The monetary concerns of the British paved the way for trade and commerce in Bombay with the introduction of English currencies minted in the Bombay Mint. The idea of banking thus developed from this Mint under the governorship of Charles Boone in 1720. Origins of banking in South Asia and South-East Asia can, thus, be traced to the Bombay Presidency.

**MEENU KANOJIA** is an independent historian.



ISBN: 978-93-5852-778-0  
394pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹1450 • \$59.95  
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## Landscape and Gender

*Traversing the Contested and Mediated 'Spaces' in India*

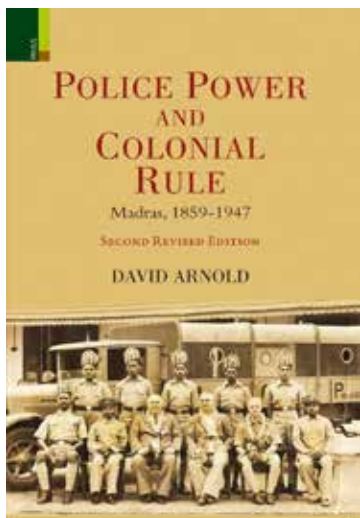
*Landscape and Gender* delves into the intricacies of contested and mediated 'spaces' through a gendered lens. Bringing together a range of subjects—archaeology, history, cultural geography, and urban studies—the chapters here examine the connections between landscape and gender within a spatio-temporal framework unique to India. The volume explores spaces that are regulated and subordinated by agencies, and which reinforce gender gaps in quotidian landscapes.

The theoretical discourse that underpins the volume aids in comprehending the subtleties of genderscapes

### Editors

**SHARMISTHA CHATTERJEE** is Assistant Professor of History at Srikrishna College, University of Kalyani.

**MOUMITA DEY** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan.



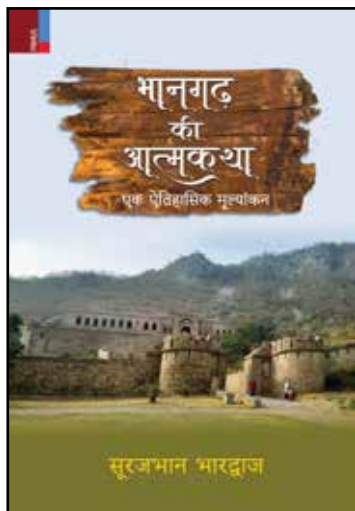
ISBN: 978-93-6177-667-0  
408 pp. • HB • 2024 • ₹1150 • \$49.95  
• £39.95

## Police Power and Colonial Rule

*Madras, 1859–1947 (Second revised edition)*

*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.

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



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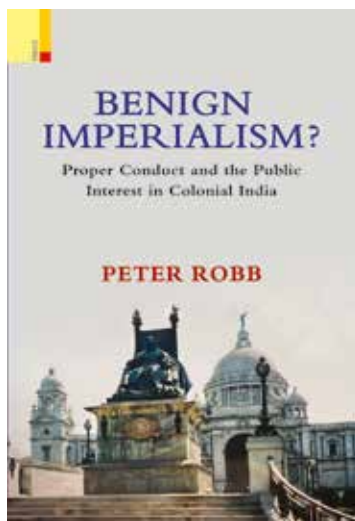
200 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹800 • \$29.95  
• £24.95

## भानगढ़ की आत्मकथा एक ऐतिहासिक मूल्यांकन

लोगों का मानना है कि अब्धेरा होने के बाद भानगढ़ भूत प्रेतों का आवास बन जाता है और यह शहर एक तांत्रिक के अभिशाप के कारण उजड़ गया था। इस अवधारणा को दूरदर्शन की दुनिया ने और पुख्ता कर दिया है। दरअसल इस संकल्पना ने भानगढ़ के इतिहास को गौण बना दिया है और भूत प्रेतों की कहानियां इस उजड़े शहर की जीवन रेखा बन गई हैं।

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**सुरजभान भारद्वाज** ने तीन दशक से अधिक दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय से संबंधित मोतीलाल नेहरू महाविद्यालय, नई दिल्ली में अध्यापन कार्य किया है। वह महाविद्यालय से कार्यवाहक प्रिंसिपल के पद से सेवानिवृत्त हुए हैं।



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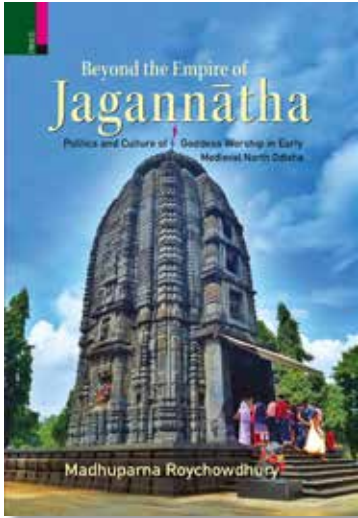
350 pp. • HB • 2024 • ₹1550 • \$59.95  
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## Benign Imperialism?

*Proper Conduct and the Public Interest in Colonial India*

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.

**PETER ROBB, FRAS, FRHistS**, is Professor Emeritus at SOAS University of London.



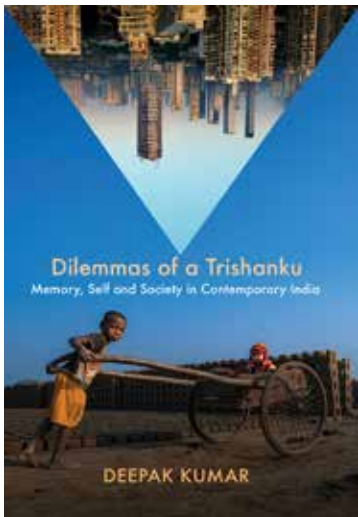
ISBN: 978-93-6627-582-6  
 372 pp. • HB • 2024 • ₹1595 • \$59.95  
 • £49.95

## Beyond the Empire of Jagannātha

*Politics and Culture of Goddess Worship in Early-Medieval North Odisha*

The regional tradition of goddess worship is as important as the famous Jagannātha temple and its realm of ritual influence for the religious and cultural life of Odisha. *Beyond the Empire of Jagannātha* studies the well-known temple of Kicakeśvarā at Khiching in the modern district of Mayurbhanj in north Odisha. This was the region over which the celebrated Bhañja rulers of medieval Khijjingakottama[n]dala ruled, with their centre of power in Khiching, during the early medieval times. The tradition of goddess worship also acted as an important catalyst in stabilizing the relationship between sub-regional rulers and the local population. Besides investigating the wider implications of sub-regional state formation, this book also analyses the fluctuating political relationship between the larger kingdoms of the coast and the local Bhañja principalities.

**MADHUPARNA ROYCHOWDHURY** teaches in the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture at the University of Calcutta.



ISBN: 978-93-6177-161-3  
 292 pp. • PB • 2024 • ₹695 • \$29.95  
 • £24.95

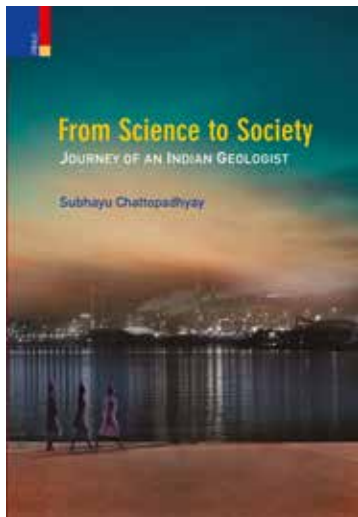
## Dilemmas of a Trishanku

*Memory, Self and Society in Contemporary India*

*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 moffusil 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.

**DEEPAK KUMAR** retired as Professor of History of Science and Education from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



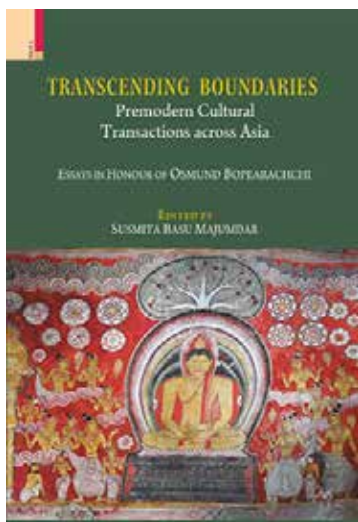
ISBN: 978-93-5572-128-0  
414 pp. • HB • 2024 • ₹1650 • \$62.95  
• £52.95

## From Science to Society

*Journey of an Indian Geologist*

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.

**SUBHAYU CHATTOPADHYAY** is Assistant Professor at the Department of History, Visva-Bharati.



ISBN: 978-93-6177-059-3  
863 pp. • HB • 2024 • ₹500 • \$229.95  
• £189.95

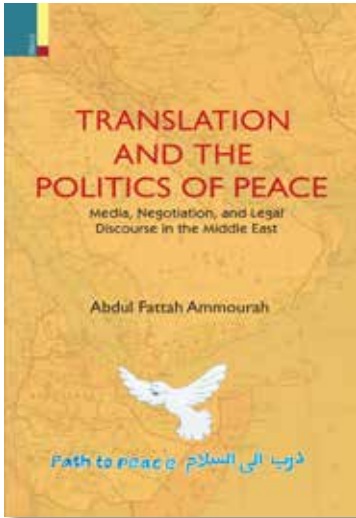
## Transcending Boundaries

*Premodern Cultural Transactions across Asia:  
Essays in Honour of Osmund Bopearachchi*

*Transcending Boundaries* celebrates the scholarship of Osmund Bopearachchi, a pioneering scholar in the fields of art history and numismatics, whose work has impacted numerous other domains of history. The chapters presented here consist of six themes related to Professor Bopearachchi's diverse interests: archaeology, material remains and archives form the first segment; the second relates to epigraphic and numismatic sources and interpretative histories; the third deals with texts and their contexts; the fourth deals with art and architecture; the fifth is on religious studies with a special focus on Buddhism; and the final section deals with varied aspects of cultural history and beyond. Through these broadly interconnected themes, the volume transcends boundaries to reflect different aspects of cultural history and the changing vignettes of society in the premodern era based on a study of empirical sources, art historical material and texts.

Editor

**SUSMITA BASU MAJUMDAR** is Professor and Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, India.



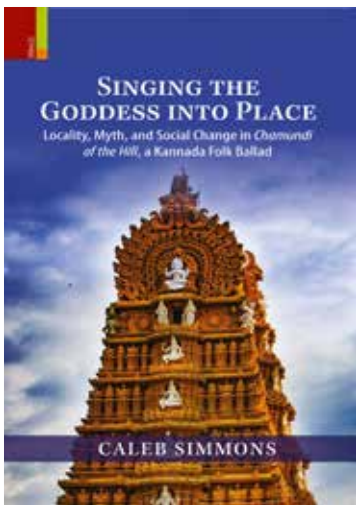
ISBN: 978-93-5852-967-8  
328 pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹1450 • \$54.95  
• £44.95

## Translation and the Politics of Peace

*Media, Negotiation, and Legal Discourse in the Middle East*

*Translation and the Politics of Peace* explores Middle Eastern politics from cultural, political, legal, and diplomatic perspectives to understand the language of politics, media, and negotiation embedded in English and Arabic terms and expressions. It explores approaches to translating and analysing political utterances and written discourse through speeches, media reports, and legal documents, including United Nations resolutions and treaties. This aims to help readers understand the repercussions of political discourse on contemporary Middle East politics as well as on future global events.

**ABDUL FATTAH AMMOURAH** is Professor, Vice Dean, Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Middle East Studies (CMES) at the Jindal School of International Affairs.



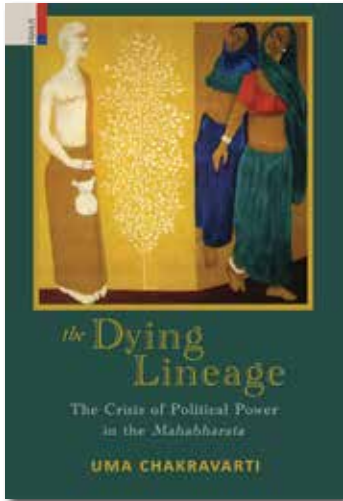
ISBN: 978-93-5852-514-4  
264pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹1500  
\* For sale in South Asia only

## Singing the Goddess into Place\*

*Locality, Myth, and Social Change in Chamundi of the Hill, a Kannada Folk Ballad*

*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. This book demonstrates how folk narratives reflect local context while also actively working to upend social inequities based on caste and ritual/devotional practices.

**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



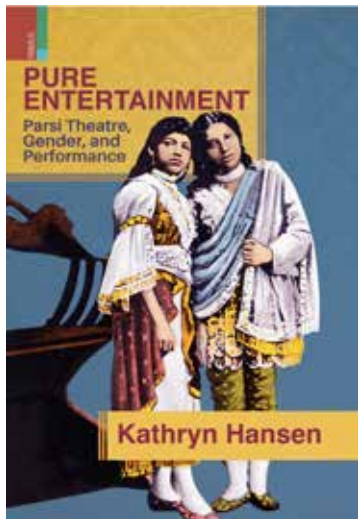
ISBN: 978-93-5852-928-9  
260pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹950 • \$39.95  
• £34.95

## The Dying Lineage

### *The Crisis of Political Power in the Mahabharata*

*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.

**UMA CHAKRAVARTI** taught history in Miranda House, University of Delhi from 1966 to 1998.



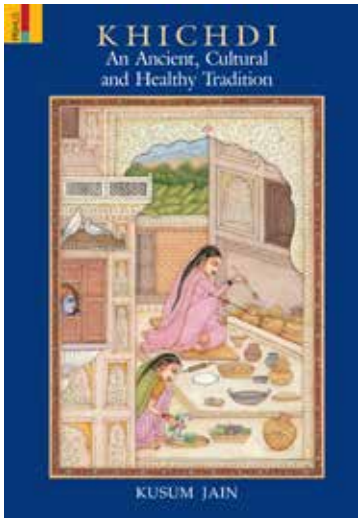
ISBN: 978-93-5852-790-2  
472pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹1495 • \$59.95  
• £49.95

## Pure Entertainment

### *Parsi Theatre, Gender and Performance*

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.

**KATHRYN HANSEN** is a cultural historian and has worked extensively on Indian theatre.



ISBN: 978-93-5572-181-5  
296 pp. • 2024 • PB • ₹995

# Khichdi

## *An Ancient, Cultural and Healthy Tradition*

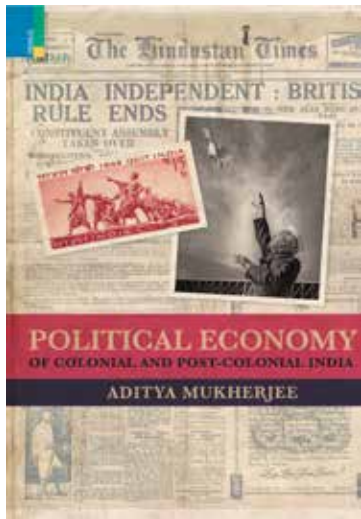
This is a collection of 121 recipes made across India that celebrate the romance of rice and pulses with ghee. The commonest pulse used in khichdies all over India is moong. The use of common ingredients with variations in amount, mode of cooking, use of special utensils (heavy-bottom pot), low or medium flame, the variety of temperings, accompaniments served with it and the cultural significance make all the difference.

All the recipes in this collection have been kitchen-tested by the contributors and highly complimented by their friends and relatives. Hope you enjoy reading about them and trying out the recipes in your homes as well.

'Khichdi is an outstanding and meticulously-researched book that not only provides over 100 recipes of khichdi from all over country but brilliantly discusses a history that takes you back to the Vedic times and also discusses Al-Biruni's work, *Qitab-ul-Hind*. In Al-Biruni's view, 'Hindustan's food is about porridge consistency', meaning rice and lentil, that is basically a reference to khichdi. Khichdi is a metaphor for life, which is symbolic of the everyday lifeworld. Our staple diet mostly includes either dal-roti or dal-rice, which is a perfect balance of all the essential nutrients. Khichdi also comprises a similar balance of healthy nutrients. In the vein of segregation and hierarchies in classrooms, the gaps between the rich and the poor, the biggest misfortune of khichdi is that it has been segregated and has always been labelled as the 'poor man's food'. Although the poor are unaware of the science of balancing nutrients, they instinctively know what is good for their body. The other misfortune is that khichdi is often made fun of and is frequently used humorously in conversation. Khichdi is also often used idiomatically to depict confusing situation, such as the often-said 'Kya Khichdi Paka Rahi Hai.'

—Pushpesh Pant, formerly at Jawaharlal Nehru University

**KUSUM JAIN** graduated from Delhi University. She then taught at Miranda House and Lady Shri Ram College and worked with the Central Hindi Directorate. She studied Linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. A food connoisseur and a practitioner of vegetarianism, she has authored the book *Khichdi: An Ancient, Cultural and Healthy Tradition*.



ISBN: 978-93-6883-007-8

592 pp. • PB • 2025 • ₹850 • \$39.95  
• £32.95

## Political Economy of Colonial and Post-Colonial India

*Political Economy of Colonial and Post-Colonial India* analyses critical aspects of the political economy of the colonial and the post-colonial period and focuses on the debates on the transition from one to the other. The volume discusses the Great Divergence, where Britain's shooting forward was predicated upon the devastation of the colonial economy, and instruments used for achieving the subjugation of the Indian economy, such as British monetary policy and particularly the Reserve Bank of India.

A major contribution of the book is to study the politics of the two basic contending classes—the capitalist class and the working class as represented by the Left. It is this that determined which class perspective exercised ideological hegemony or influence over the national movement and, consequently, over the post-colonial Indian state.

An examination of the Indian national movement's 'idea of India', implemented by the post-colonial Indian state led by Jawaharlal Nehru forms a core theme of the book. It also discusses Indira Gandhi shaping the Indian economy, taking the Nehruvian path to its logical conclusion and then initiating the shift to economic reform. Finally, it discusses at length the growing challenge of perhaps the longest lasting legacy of colonialism—religious communalism—which threatens India's integrity today.

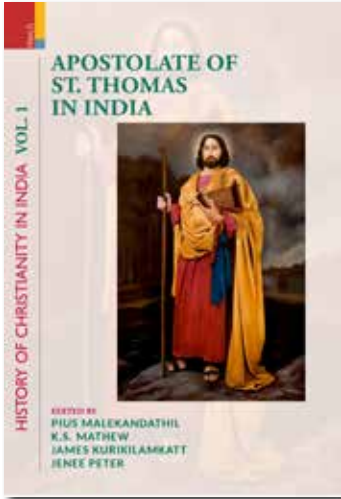
'It's hard to overstate the importance of this book. It embodies a lifetime of scholarship and political commitment, and the early essays repay the same attention as more recent ones. Each essay can be savored separately but together they represent a substantial and significant achievement that is a distinctive and vital contribution to global history and the reconsideration of social science.'

—Gurminder K. Bhambra,  
London School of Economics and Political Science

'Prof. Mukherjee has done a great service by giving us his life's work in a fine compendium. What makes the book even more important is the timing of its publication. Indians would fare far better and have more arrows in their argumentative quiver against the rising tide of communal fascism if they picked up this book as soon as it hit the stores.'

—Shubham Sharma, *NewsClick*

**ADITYA MUKHERJEE** is Former Professor of Contemporary Indian History at Jawaharlal Nehru University.



ISBN: 978-93-6177-737-0  
 542 pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹1695 • \$69.95  
 • £59.95

# Apostolate of St. Thomas in India

*Apostolate of St. Thomas in India* traces the history of the missionary works of St. Thomas and the origins of Christianity in the subcontinent. It delves into the genesis of the St. Thomas Christians, a community whose various works including their historical documents in Syriac and Malayalam were destroyed by the Portuguese colonizers at the Synod of Diamper (1599) fearing their heretical contents. The chapters here revisit these themes from different perspectives, examining a variety of archaeological and literary sources and using tools of historical research and a multi-disciplinary methodology to question the existing overarching historical narratives about the St. Thomas Christians. This allows readers to retrieve a history that was previously erased as well as understand the alterity of the community's past outside of the convention created by the Euro-centric 'myth of historicity'.

The volume is a reservoir for scholars working on the origin of Christianity in South Asia in general and for those looking for a nuanced understanding of the origin of St. Thomas Christians in particular.

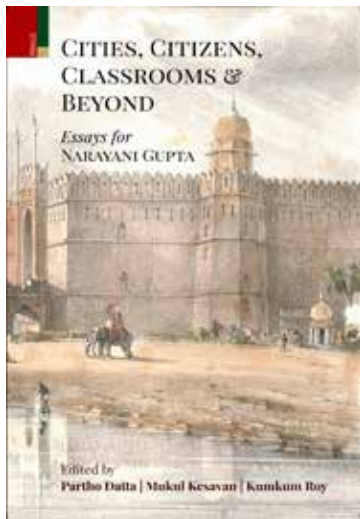
## Editors

**PIUS MALEKANDATHIL** is Former Professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and is currently Vicar General of the Syro Malabar Diocese of Kothamangalam, Kerala, India.

**K.S. MATHEW** served as Professor and Head at Hyderabad Central University and later as Founder Head and Professor of the Department of History, Pondicherry Central University.

**JAMES KURIKILAMKATT** is Director of Thomasine Research Centre, Trichur. His publications include *First Voyage of the Apostle Thomas to India: Ancient Christianity in Bharuch and Taxila* (2005).

**JENEE PETER** is an Assistant Professor at the PG & Research Department of History, Union Christian College, Alwaye. She is the author of *Church Murals of Kerala* (2009).



ISBN: 978-93-6627-004-3

416 pp. • 2025 • HB • ₹1295 • \$54.95

• £44.95

# Cities, Citizens, Classrooms and Beyond

*Essays for Narayani Gupta*

Narayani Gupta's pioneering scholarship, concern with the fate of Delhi and campaigns to make the city a habitable space continue to inspire generations of people from diverse fields. Among her writings, *Delhi Between Two Empires* (1981) remains a classic work of urban history. One of the founders of the Conservation Society Delhi, her activism over many years has generated a new civic consciousness around monuments, heritage and shared spaces. Her work with Delhi schools has been equally significant. She has edited and authored school textbooks in Hindi and English, guidebooks to historical sites for children, and promoted innovative teaching methods.

*Cities, Citizens, Classrooms and Beyond* is a tribute by scholars, colleagues, students and friends which includes memoirs as well as discussions of various facets of urban history, teaching methods and pedagogy. In this volume, divided into three sections, the contributors have explored medieval Srirangam, the legacy of Agra, the marsiya in Delhi, the urban natures of colonial metropolises and the conservation of the Nizamuddin complex. There are essays on Patrick Geddes, the fascinating phenomenon of informal towns, early nationalist Delhi and the activities of Communists in the city. Architects, planners, historians, teachers have all reflected on Narayani Gupta's enduring legacy: the personal and humane touch she offers to all her endeavours.

'This volume is something of a deliberately mixed bag, offering something of interest to a wide range of people... But it is in some ways a reflection of, and a definite complement to, the indefatigable energies that Narayani Gupta brought to each of the domains of history writing, teaching and to public history.'

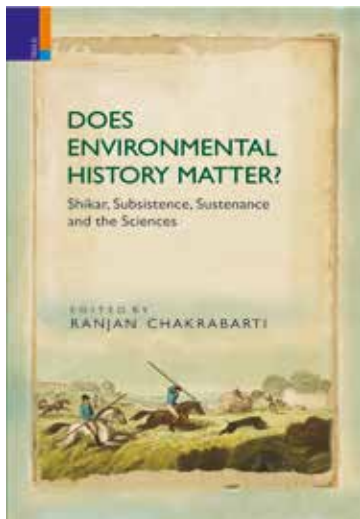
—Janaki Nair, *The Book Review*

## Editors

**PARTHO DATTA** taught undergraduate history and now teaches music studies at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

**MUKUL KESAVAN** is a writer based in Delhi. He taught history at Jamia Millia Islamia, along with Narayani Gupta, for many years.

**KUMKUM ROY** taught for several years in colleges and universities in Delhi, and retired from the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, in 2021.



ISBN: 978-93-6627-866-7  
324 pp. • HB • 2024 • ₹1495 • \$54.95  
• £44.95

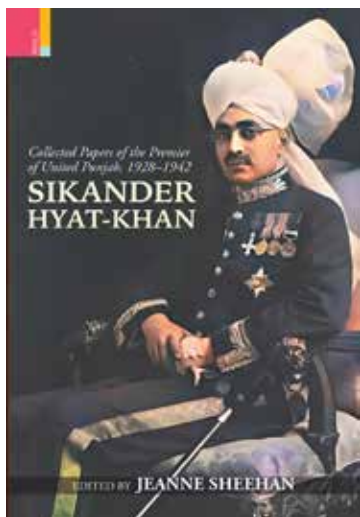
## Does Environmental History Matter?

*Shikar, Subsistence, Sustenance and the Sciences*

*Does Environmental History Matter?* explores the territory of climate history and environmentalism through its methodology and historiography, focusing on its origins and usefulness in the contemporary world as well as its multidisciplinary character. The chapters brought together in this volume examine numerous issues in the context of the ongoing global climate crisis and analyse how such disasters are caused by the complex relationship between humans and the environment. Through their writings, the contributors thus call for a greater understanding of the connections between natural disasters and human-led activities such as hunting, land use, deforestation, soil erosion, and overconsumption of resources.

Editor

**RANJAN CHAKRABARTI** is Former Vice-Chancellor of Vidyasagar University and Netaji Subhas Open University. He is currently Hony. Visiting Professor at Jadavpur University and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Royal Global University, Guwahati.



ISBN: 978-93-6177-530-7  
810 pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹2500 • \$99.95  
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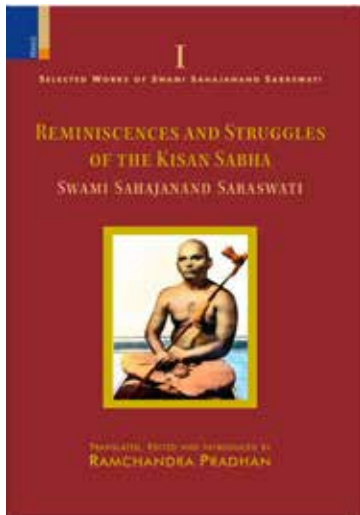
## Sikander Hyat-Khan

*Collected Papers of the Premier of United Punjab, 1928–1942*

*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. 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.

Editor

**JEANNE SHEEHAN** is Professor of Political Science and International Studies at Iona University, a Bloomberg Politics contributor, and author.



ISBN: 978-93-6627-965-7

338 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1150 • \$47.95 •  
£38.95

## Selected Works of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati

Translated, Edited and Introduced by Ramchandra Pradhan

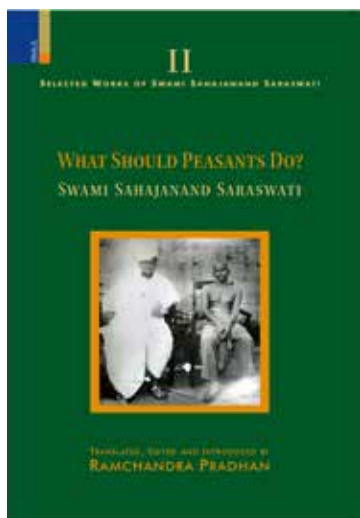
**RAMCHANDRA PRADHAN**, a well-known social activist and a Gandhian scholar, taught at Ramjas College, Delhi University for several decades.

'Swami Sahajanand Saraswati is, in this land of ours, a name to conjure with. The undisputed leader of the Peasant Movement in India, and he is today the idol of the masses and the hero of millions.' -20 April 1940, Signed editorial in the *Forward Bloc*

Volume I

# Reminiscences and Struggles of the Kisan Sabha

*Reminiscences and Struggles of the Kisan Sabha* is the first in the five-volume series 'Selected Works of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati'. Sahajanand (1889–1950) was not only a prominent peasant leader but also a freedom fighter and social reformer. The present volume traces the historical evolution of peasant movements as well as the transformation of the Sahajanand-led Kisan Sabha from a moderate peasant organization to a militant one. It also chronicles how a band of dedicated 'non-leaders' at the village level fought and brought massive relief to the people under their sway.



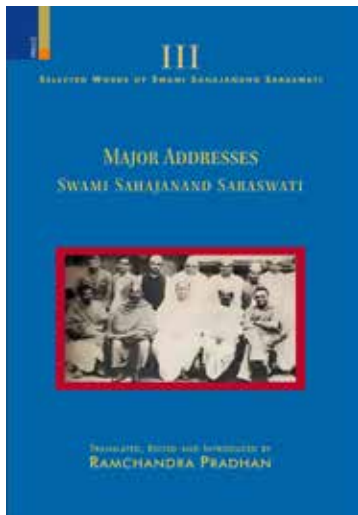
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302 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1100 • \$44.95  
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Volume II

# What Should Peasants Do?

*What Should Peasants Do?* constitutes the second volume of five-volume series titled the 'Selected Works of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati'. The essays here act as a clarion call for the peasant struggle against landlordism and British imperialism. These writings reflect the deep understanding of the strengths of the peasants as annadata (food provider) and their central role in the economy and society of the nation. Simultaneously, he points out the weakness of peasants in organizing themselves to fight for their basic needs and families against the zamindars and moneylenders or being dependent on the middle class leadership for their resistance against the colonial order. Written during his time in jail, Sahajanand implores the peasants to embrace the Kisan Sabha on a mass scale, build up a viable Kisan Kosh, and raise and support a dedicated band of Kisan Sevaks.

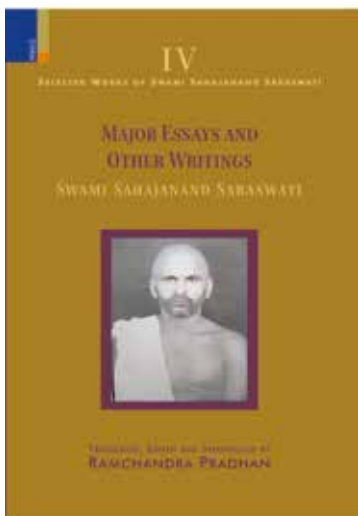


ISBN: 978-93-6627-087-6  
 326 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1150 • \$46.95  
 • £37.95

Volume III

## Major Addresses

*Major Addresses* is the third in the five-volume series 'Selected Works of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati'. These addresses were primarily delivered by Sahajanand on the forums of the Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha as well as the All India Kisan Sabha between 1935 and 1949, with the final given at the conference of the Virakta Mahamandal. They mark the evolution of the national movement as well as that of peasant movement in India. Some of the ideas presented here are specific to the context of colonial India but his core ideas remain relevant even today: how to intensify the popular movement to establish a new and revolutionary social order marked by equity and justice. As Sahajanand was involved in both the national and peasant movements, he was aware of their multiple vantage points and stressed their inter-relationship. In these addresses, he underlines the pressing need for the Kisan Sabha to be an independent organization, both in organizational and ideological terms, within the nationalist movement.

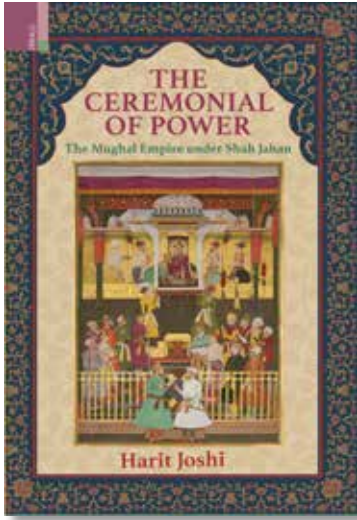


ISBN: 978-93-6627-230-6  
 370 pp. • HB • 2025 • ₹1195 • \$49.95  
 • £39.95

Volume IV

## Major Essays and Other Writings

*Major Essays and Other Writings* is the fourth book in the five-volume series 'Selected Works of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati'. The thirty essays compiled here cover the period between 1933– and 1950, a crucial phase in the making of the Indian nation and the peasant movement. Sahajanand's writings are marked by his skill for detailed field investigations and reasoned arguments. He not only critiques issues related to land patterns, party systems and zamindars, but also offers creative alternatives and solutions. His selfless commitment to the peasants' cause is reiterated in his writings from post-Independence India, where he renewed his commitment to working towards a revolution marked by equity and justice. Sahajanand inspired the struggle of peasants in a new era but his writings also evoke the imagery of his continuation of the tradition of the spiritual soldier such as Swami Ramdas and Guru Govind Singh.



ISBN: 978-93-5852-905-0

527pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹1995 • \$74.95  
• £64.95

## The Ceremonial of Power

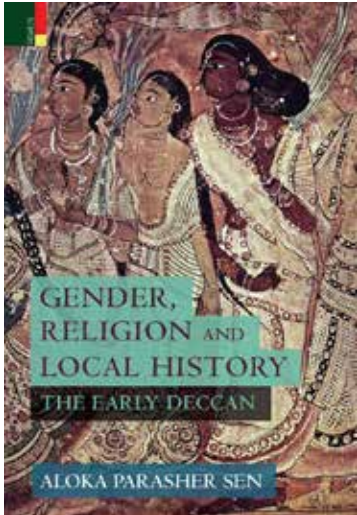
### *The Mughal Empire Under Shah Jahan*

*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 book is an earnest attempt to trace the trajectory of Shah Jahan's reign and pen a biography of Shah Jahan. It is indeed a cogent review of the existing scholarship on Mughal history, and Shah Jahan in particular. In the attempt to be fair to Shah Jahan as opposed to other Mughal Emperors, it turns out to be a eulogy. It's a quick, smooth read, nevertheless. The discreet selection of coloured plates is interesting and valuable, proficiently produced with prudence, showcasing the grandeur of Shah Jahan's reign, otherwise quite mildly visible in the narration.'

—Meena Bhargava, Indraprastha College for Women,  
University of Delhi

**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.



ISBN: 978-93-5572-659-9

416pp. • 2023 • HB • ₹1750 • \$69.95  
• £59.95

## Gender, Religion and Local History

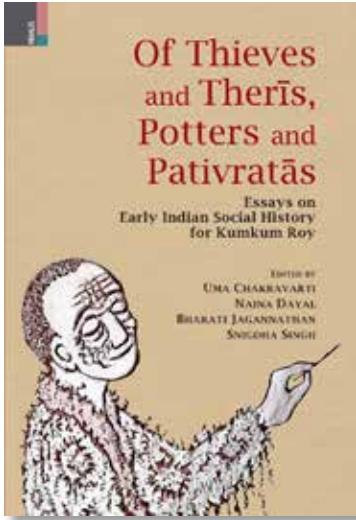
### *The Early Deccan*

*Gender, Religion and Local History: The Early Deccan* straddles two areas of research, namely the study of women in a socio-religious context and images of the feminine that emerged as objects of worship. Based on a study of inscriptions, sculptural representations and archaeological and literary sources, the research in this volume is located in different local contexts that focus on gender and ideology in order to discern the dynamics of social change.

'Parasher Sen's stated intent is to trace how women subscribed to and broke out of the prescriptive norms that were laid out for them and to generally explore how religious ideas shaped gender relations in early India, while trying to bring in the particularities of local history in all this.'

—A Soheb Vahab, Jawaharlal Nehru University

**ALOKA PARASHER SEN** is Professor Emerita in the Department of Sanskrit Studies, University of Hyderabad, where she previously taught history for more than four decades.



ISBN: 978-93-5687-033-8  
476pp. • 2023 • HB • ₹1995 • \$79.95  
• £64.95

## Of Thieves and Therīs, Potters and Pativrātās

*Essays on Early Indian Social History for  
Kumkum Roy*

'What comes out clearly is the extent of the work and influence that Kumkum Roy's own research have had on a range of aspects of early Indian history—gender, of course, but also questioning the texts, minutely, meticulously and critically examining these texts, and then developing new ways of understanding the past.'

—Radhika Seshan, *The Book Review*

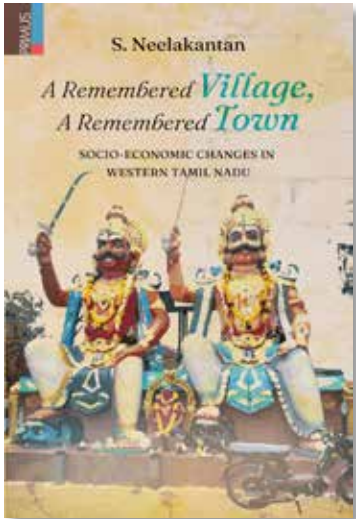
### Editors

**UMA CHAKRAVARTI** taught at Miranda House, University of Delhi, till 1998.

**NAINA DAYAL** teaches history at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi.

**BHARATI JAGANNATHAN** teaches history at Miranda House, University of Delhi.

**SNIGDHA SINGH** teaches history at Miranda House, University of Delhi.



ISBN: 978-93-5852-185-6  
258pp. • 2024 • HB • ₹995 • \$39.95  
• £34.95

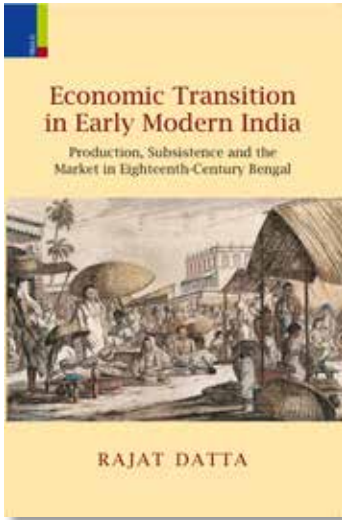
## A Remembered Village, A Remembered Town

*Socio-economic Changes in Western Tamil Nadu*

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, Appalalayam, 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.

**S. NEELAKANTAN** was a Fulbright Fellow at Washington University under Nobel laureate Douglass C. North. He also served as Director of MIDS in the early nineties.



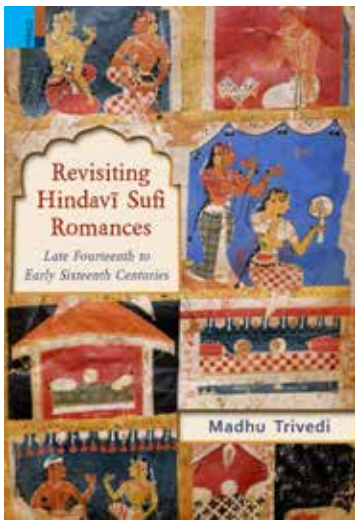
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**RAJAT DATTA** (1956–2021) retired as Professor of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University.



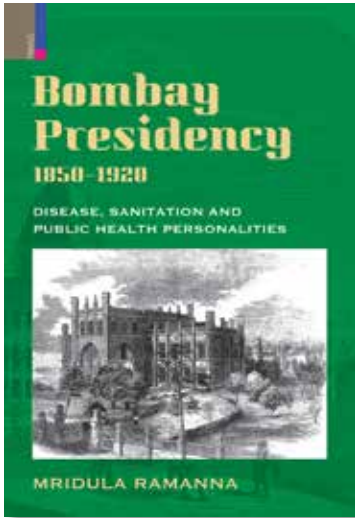
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**MADHU TRIVEDI** retired as Associate Professor, Department of History, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi.



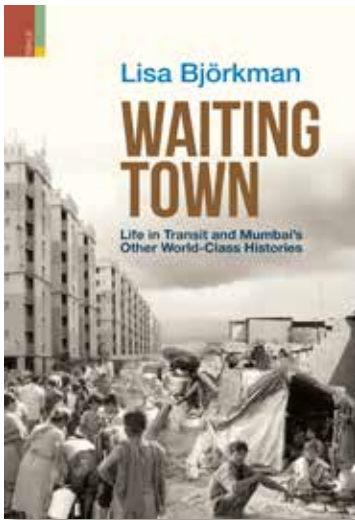
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**MRIDULA RAMANNA** is the former Head, Department of History, South Indian Education Society College, Mumbai.



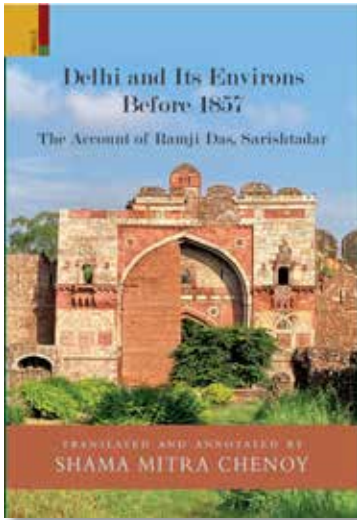
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## Waiting Town\*

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

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.

**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.



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## Delhi and Its Environs Before 1857

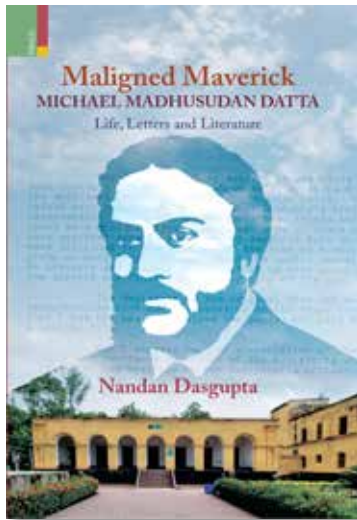
*The Account of Ramji Das, Sarishtadar*

Ramji Das' *Zikr-e Umurat-e Am Zila-e Dehli*, an account of Delhi and its surroundings, is as unique as the city in which it was written, just before the momentous events of 1857 which completely changed this space. *Delhi and Its Environs Before 1857: The Account of Ramji Das, Sarishtadar* provides a rare description of the city—the *alam mein intikhab*—where even Lord Indra chose to alight, and this work commands a distinctive place amongst the Persian and Urdu works recorded between the mid-eighteenth and early twentieth centuries.

'In the Introduction to the book, Chenoy analyses the features of Shahjahanabad (the name for Delhi in the seventeenth century) and its history and also dwells on the characteristics of other works on Delhi. This helps to evaluate Ramji Das's *Zikr-e Umurat-e Am Zila-e Dehli* and put it in proper perspective....'

—Meena Bhargava, Indraprastha College for Women,  
University of Delhi

**SHAMA MITRA CHENOEY** is Professor of History at Shivaji College,  
University of Delhi.



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'...a welcome addition to the literature on Dutt because it is in English and makes the poet more accessible to Indian readers outside Bengal.'

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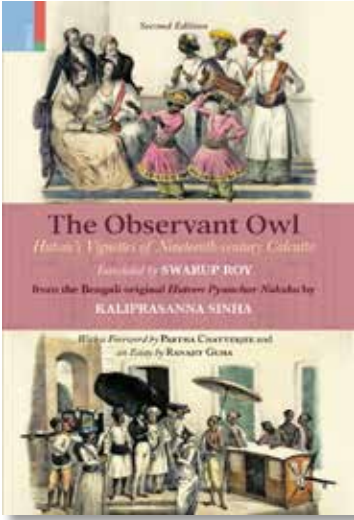
'More than Michael's literary abilities, I, for one, am struck by his positivity as revealed in this book; his selfconfidence, his risk-taking, his gallant efforts to rise above circumstances. The free verse is already there; Michael's legacy, of course, but history now. Michael however is not. He is most contemporary in the globalized world, among Indian-origin people rising to international positions of power, and even aspiring to outer space. Michael's life is not of pathos but of inspiration. There I feel lies the relevance of Dasgupta's presentation.'

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



ISBN: 978-93-7033-710-7  
338pp. • 2025 • PB • ₹795 • \$31.95  
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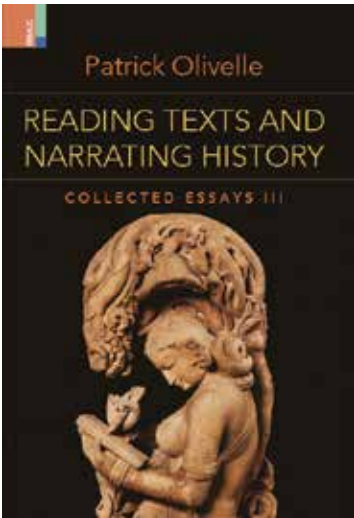
## The Observant Owl

*Hutom's Vignettes of Nineteenth-Century Calcutta (Second Edition)*

*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.

Translator

**SWARUP ROY** is Associate Professor in English at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Belur Math, West Bengal.



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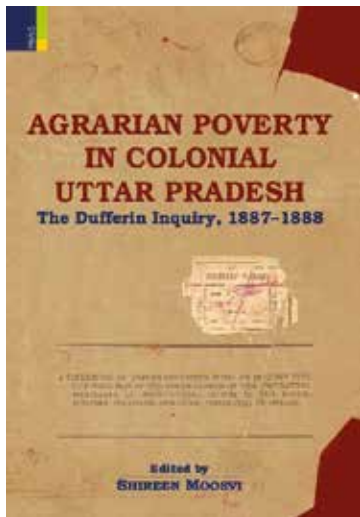
## Reading Texts and Narrating History

*Collected Essays III*

'The close attention required for editing and translating gives Olivelle an unparalleled understanding of the texts and inspires numerous articles and essays contained in this volume that draw out key ideas and insights from those same sources. Only careful philological editing and the hard interpretive choices of translation enable progress in our historical understanding of India. Among the advances that philology makes possible is an improved sense of chronology in ancient India. Although uncertain chronologies still pose challenges for this period, readers are invited to note how often Olivelle makes arguments based on historical simultaneity or sequence. His feel for the texts and his scrutiny of the historical markers in them enables him to place ideas, institutions, and authors in plausible chronological contexts. Taken together, Olivelle's many editions and translations function as both the foundation and the justification for the shorter writings in this volume. In addition to questions of social history and material culture, the volume also addresses the subject of law, affirming that law in India has a history. Olivelle practices enabling scholarship, a form of academic work that makes other scholarship possible. It opens conversations rather than closing them, and it invites instead of concluding.'

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**PATRICK OLIVELLE** is Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin and a former President of the American Oriental Society.



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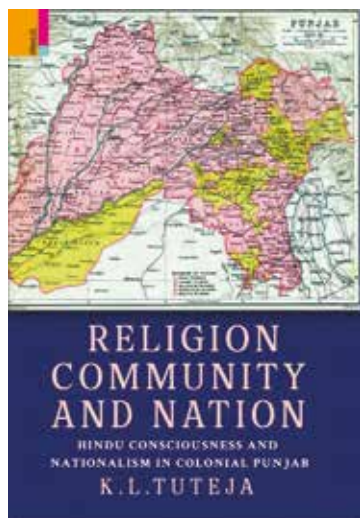
## Agrarian Poverty in Colonial Uttar Pradesh

*The Dufferin Inquiry, 1887–1888*

It is seldom recognized that Indian nationalism had its beginnings in the belief that India was being increasingly impoverished under British rule. To contest claims about the growing poverty in India, Viceroy Lord Dufferin, in August 1887, decided to institute an inquiry to establish whether ‘the greater population of India suffer from a daily insufficiency of food’. The text of the inquiry conducted in Uttar Pradesh is here preceded by a detailed Introduction providing a critical analysis about the material conditions and social customs of the poor, labourers, artisans, landlords, moneylenders and women, as well as an examination of the quality and substance of the reports.

Editor

**SHIREEN MOOSVI** is former Professor of History at Aligarh Muslim University.



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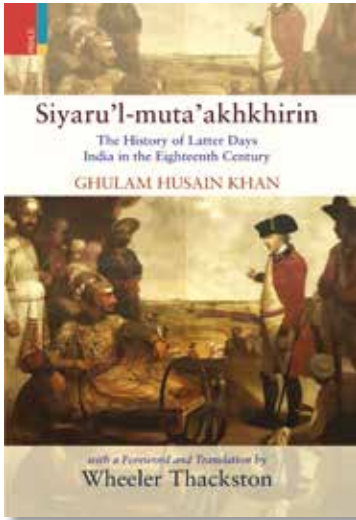
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## Religion, Community and Nation

*Hindu Consciousness and Nationalism in Colonial Punjab*

*Religion, Community and Nation: Hindu Consciousness and Nationalism in Colonial Punjab* examines the emergence and growth of a Hindu communitarian identity in Punjab and its interface with the nationalist discourse and the anti-colonial struggle from the late nineteenth century to the closing years of the 1920s. An attempt has been made to understand and explain how different sections of the new Hindu elite, having developed a distinct communitarian identity, negotiated with the ideology of inclusive nationalism and the anti-imperialist struggle represented by the Congress.

**K.L. TUTEJA** is former Professor of modern Indian history, Kurukshetra University.



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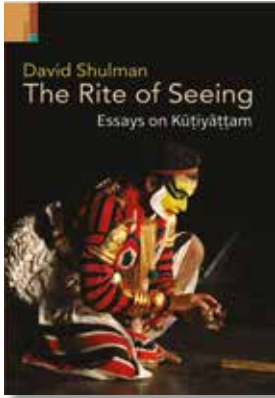
## Siyaru'l-muta'akhhirin

### *The History of Latter Days India in the Eighteenth Century*

Ghulam Husain Khan Tabataba'i's *Siyaru'l-muta'akhhirin* is divided into three unequal parts. The first part traces the history of the Mughal Empire from the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 to the latter part of Muhammad Shah's reign, around 1740. The second part focuses on the history of Bihar and Bengal from the death of the governor Shuja'uddaula in 1739 through the nizamate of Sirajuddaula, who was deposed, and died in 1757. The third part returns to the history of the empire at large, picking it up at 1740 and continuing to 1780. Since Ghulam Husain Khan spent almost his entire life in Bihar and Bengal and had family ties to many of the rulers, he was a first-hand witness to many of the events of which he writes. He was also acquainted with many of the British employees of the East India Company and has insightful observations on the rule (and misrule) of the Company and the part it played in the impoverishment of the region. Of particular interest are Ghulam Husain Khan's digressions on his own life. These rare glimpses into the personal lives of the author and those around him show how precarious one's position was in an age of shifting fortunes as the power and prestige of the Mughal Empire were diminished and lives and livelihoods could depend upon the whim of an autocratic local ruler.

Copious notes identifying persons and places as well as a glossary of non-English terms and genealogical and dynastic charts add to the value of the translation.

**WHEELER THACKSTON** is a retired academic who taught Persian, Arabic, and other Near Eastern languages for forty years.



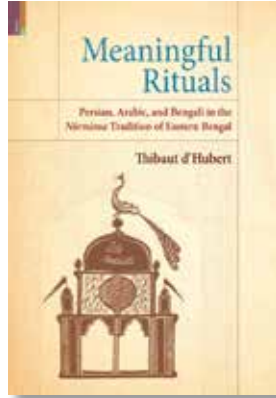
## The Rite of Seeing

*Essays on Kūṭiyāṭṭam*

*The Rite of Seeing* reflects the work of the Hebrew University Kūṭiyāṭṭam team and of our colleagues from Tuebingen, Paris, Groningen, and elsewhere, over many years of annual pilgrimages to Kerala to watch and study this art in action. It offers interpretations of seven classical performances in the light of the actors' traditional handbooks (Āṭṭaparakāram), the Sanskrit base text, and the artists' oral commentary that emerged naturally in the course of many days of attentive viewing. The book is thus meant to introduce Kūṭiyāṭṭam to new audiences and to offer pathways for beginning to explore the riches of this unique and still vital tradition.

**DAVID SHULMAN** is Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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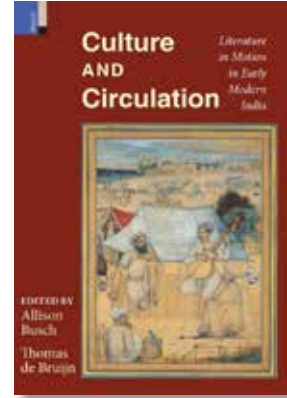
## Meaningful Rituals

*Persian, Arabic and Bengali in the Nūr-nāma Tradition of Eastern Bengal*

*Meaningful Rituals* explores a corpus of texts that centre around the creation of the world by God through his prophet Muḥammad in his primordial form as a luminous entity. These short accounts, which bear the title Nūr-nāma (The Book of Light), played two roles: as conveyers of knowledge regarding basic Islamic beliefs and cosmology, and as ritual texts meant to protect and bring prosperity to those who read and preserved the physical artefact of the book that contained that knowledge.

**THIBAUT D'HUBERT** teaches Bengali at the University of Chicago

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## Culture and Circulation

*Literature in Motion in Early Modern India*

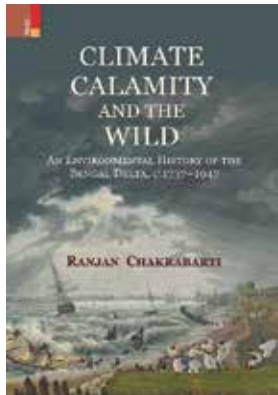
*Culture and Circulation* takes an innovative approach to early modern Indian literature. The authors foreground the complex hybridity of literary genres and social milieus, capturing elements that have eluded traditional literary history.

**Editors**

**ALLISON BUSCH** was Associate Professor of Hindi literature, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University, New York.

**THOMAS DE BRUIJN** is an independent scholar. His publications include a monograph on Muhammad Jayasi's Padmāvat and articles on premodern and modern Indian literature.

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## Climate, Calamity and the Wild

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—Ian Rotherham, *Environment and History*

Editor

**RANJAN CHAKRABARTI** is Professor of History at Jadavpur University and previously Vice-Chancellor of NSOU and Vidyasagar University, West Bengal.

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## The Shattered Earth

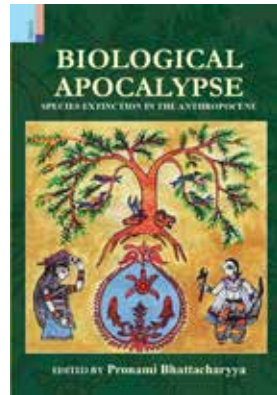
*Histories of Climate, Catastrophe and the Wilderness*

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. 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.

Editor

**MILI GHOSE** was a Fellow at Maulana Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata and a University Grants Commission Fellow at Jadavpur University.

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## Biological Apocalypse

*Species Extinction in the Anthropocene*

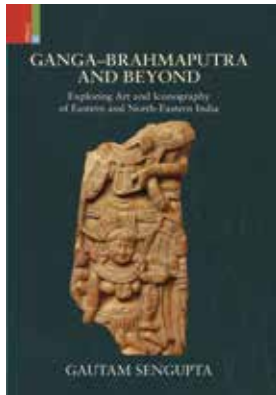
'*Biological Apocalypse* zooms in on the IUCN's list of endangered animals. Since a large number of them are Indian, the book is relevant to the subcontinent. It also deals with less dominant species like the black soft-shell turtles, the Chinese pangolin, the red panda, the Jerdon's courser, the white-bellied heron and the white-backed vulture and brings in the new dimension of climate change on ecosystems. It has updated information on the extensive research and efforts being made to save them and ends with success stories on the frontlines of conservation.'

—Usha Rai, *Mongabay*

Editor

**PRONAMI BHATTACHARYYA** is Assistant Professor of English at Royal Global University, Assam.

ISBN: 978-93-5687-865-5  
342pp. • 2023 • HB • ₹1395 • \$56.95  
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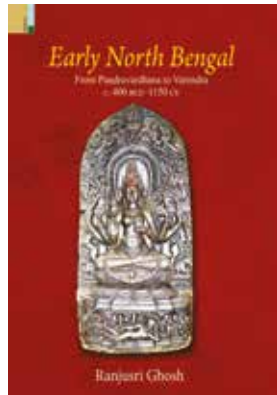
## Ganga– Brahmaputra and Beyond

*Exploring Art and Iconography  
of Eastern and North-Eastern  
India*

Like the heterogeneity of the idyllic landscape of the Ganga–Brahmaputra valleys, the art historical traditions of the region manifest elements of bewildering diversity and multiplicity in form and media. Based on empirical research over four decades across eastern and north-eastern India, *Ganga–Brahmaputra and Beyond* explores these diverse creative traditions, visualized and successfully strategized by premodern *śilpīns* or craftsmen.

**GAUTAM SENGUPTA** is former Professor, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.

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510 pp. • 2023 • HB • ₹1750 • \$69.95  
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## Early North Bengal

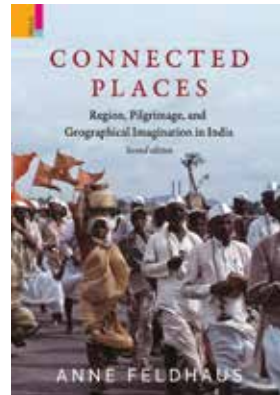
*From Puṇḍravardhana to  
Varendra,  
c.400 BCE–1150 CE*

'The intensively researched recent book *Early North Bengal from Puṇḍravardhana to Varendra c.400 BCE–1150 CE* by Ranjusri Ghosh, the topic for her PhD thesis, with a good number of very useful maps and illustrations and a meaningful jacket showing the goddess Kāmeśvarī on the front and a rural landscape painting on the back, is a precious gift to the reader.'

–Krishendu Ray, University of Calcutta

**RANJUSRI GHOSH** has dedicated majority of her time to the field of historical research, while being affiliated with several organizations such as the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Indian Council of Historical Research in New Delhi among others, as a post-doctoral Fellow.

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## Connected Places

*Religion, Pilgrimage, and  
Geographical Imagination in  
India*

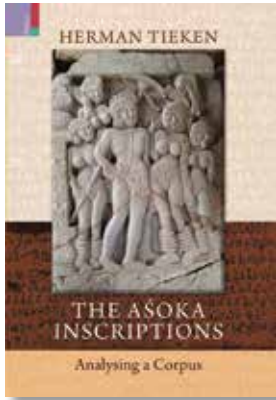
*Connected Places* is a study in the religious geography of India. It explores ways in which people live in and understand their worlds. In the book, Anne Feldhaus examines a variety of religious ideas, images, and rituals that give people a sense of the coherence and meaning of a particular region. She demonstrates how a multitude of intersecting, overlapping, yet in some ways disconnected regions can co-exist in one part of India.

'Focusing on the connections between space, place and pilgrimage, this work brings together geography, history, ethnography and mathematics, in a meticulously researched and erudite work.'

–Radhika Seshan, formerly at  
Savitribai Phule Pune University,  
Pune

**ANNE FELDHAUS** is Professor Emerita of Religious Studies at Arizona State University.

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## The Aśoka Inscriptions

*Analysing A Corpus*

*The Aśoka Inscriptions: Analysing a Corpus* attempts a textual and literary analysis of the inscriptions of Aśoka—the oldest in India—and their relationship as a corpus. Unique in both content and format, the inscriptions primarily engage with ideas of good kingship and dharma rather than with donations made or the celebration of territorial conquests, the usual topics of later inscriptions.

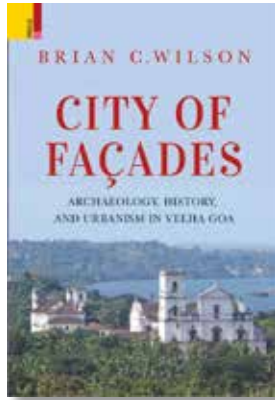
‘The book in some ways offers fresh perspectives, even though one may disagree with one or two. The study attempted to ‘change the landscape of the inscriptions through a detailed study of the texts as well as of the corpus as a whole.’

—Suchandra Ghosh,  
*The Book Review*

**HERMAN TIEKEN** studied Sanskrit and Tamil at the Kern Institute of the University of Leiden in The Netherlands, where he later taught Sanskrit.

ISBN: 978-93-5572-567-7

• 504 pp. • 2023 • HB • ₹1595 • \$64.95  
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## City of Facades

*Archaeology, History, and Urbanism in Velha Goa*

*City of Façades: Archaeology, History, and Urbanism in Velha Goa* revisits early modern colonial urbanisms through an archaeological project conducted in 2012 at the Portuguese colonial site of Velha Goa, India.

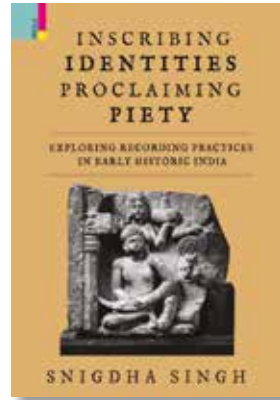
‘This is an unusual and innovative book that captures the history of Velha Goa through the lens of archeology as method, and urbanism as the heuristic category for understanding the Portuguese city as it was designed and constructed since the 16th century.’

—Lakshmi Subramanian,  
HSS, BITS Pilani, Goa.

**BRIAN C. WILSON** is a historical anthropologist and archaeologist with a PhD from the University of Chicago.

ISBN: 978-93-5572-632-2

• 358pp. • 2022 • HB • ₹1595, \$59.95  
• £52.95



## Inscribing Identities, Proclaiming Piety

*Exploring Recording Practices in Early Historic India*

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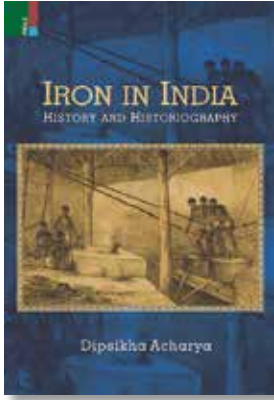
‘Snigdha Singh’s book forces us to revisit the complex social world of monks and nuns on the one hand and laymen and women on the other. The book will immensely help any reader to have a nuanced understanding of the concepts of ‘patronage’ and ‘matronage’. The tables prepared for each chapter might generate interest among young researchers for further probing.’

—Suchandra Ghosh,  
*The Book Review*

**SNIGDHA SINGH** is Associate Professor in the Department of History at Miranda House, University of Delhi.

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## Iron in India

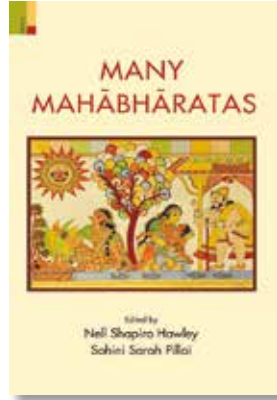
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Integrating material culture with the worldview or mentalités of people a more comprehensive understanding of the historical significance of objects emerges. Reading the historians' perceptions of the past, *Iron in India: History and Historiography* presents a transdisciplinary narrative aimed at a reconstruction of the history of Indian iron before its industrial production.

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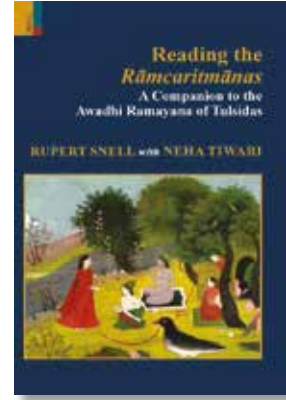
'Rāmāyana, traditionally viewed as *kāvya* (creative literature), can easily be approached as one among many literary representations of Rāma's story. The *Mahābhārata*, often called *itihāsa* (historical tradition, though not the same as History), is not about one character's journey but about a watershed moment in the (presumed) past.'

—Kanad Sinha, The Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata, West Bengal

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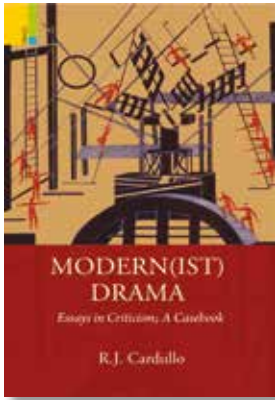
**RUPERT SNELL** is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, and previously taught at SOAS, University of London.

**NEHA TIWARI**, formerly Director and Instructor at Zabaan School for Languages in New Delhi is currently pursuing a Masters in South Asian languages and literature from Ghent University, Belgium.

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## Modern(ist) Drama

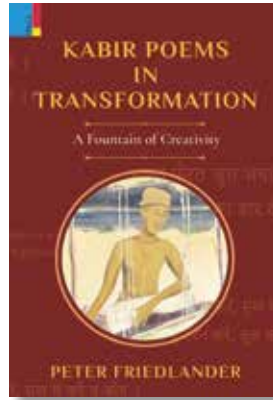
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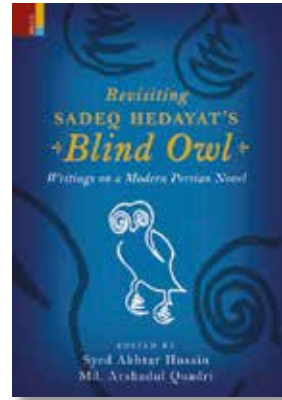
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**PETER FRIEDLANDER** is Associate Professor of Hindi at the School of Culture, History & Language, Australian National University.

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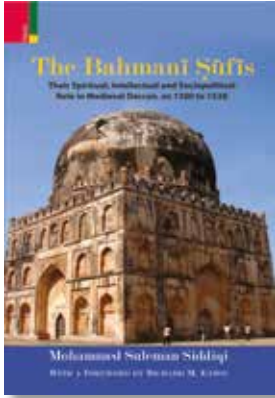
**Editors**

**SYED AKHTAR HUSAIN** is Professor at the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and President of the Institute of Indo-Persian Studies.

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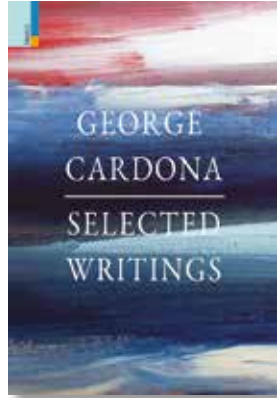
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—Pia Maria Malik, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, Delhi

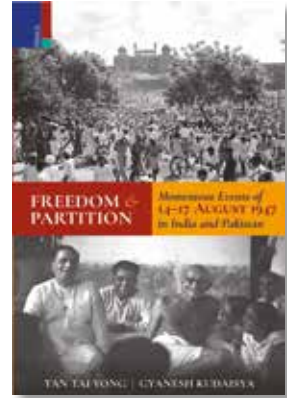
**MOHAMMED SULEMAN SIDDIQI** is former Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University (2005–8); founding registrar of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad (1998–2004); and Head of the Department of Islamic Studies at Osmania (1989–97).



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**GEORGE CARDONA** is Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania, where he previously taught from 1960 to 2015.



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—Amol Sagar, *The Book Review*

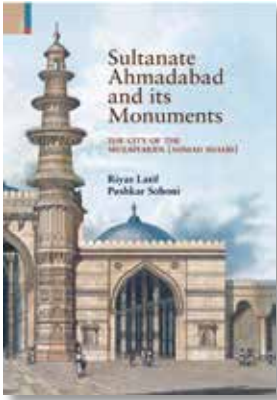
**TAN TAI YONG** is President of Singapore University of Social Sciences.

**GYANESH KUDAISSYA** is Associate Professor in South Asian Studies and Visiting Associate Research Professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies (NUS).

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## Sultanate Ahmadabad and Its Monuments

*The City of The Muzaffarids (Ahmad Shahis)*

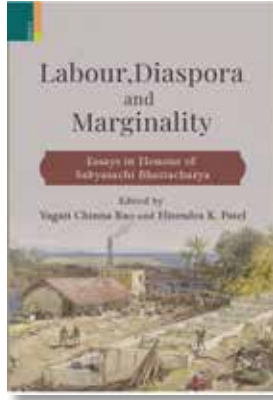
A group of monuments in Ahmadabad constructed under the patronage of the Muzaffarid (Ahmad Shahi) sultanate of Gujarat stand testimony today to the composite heritage of the city. *Sultanate Ahmadabad and its Monuments* serves as a succinct guide to these representative monuments constructed under a sovereignty that endured for almost two centuries until its annexation into the Mughal Empire under Akbar in 1573.

**RIYAZ LATIF** is an architectural historian and teaches at FLAME University in Pune.

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*Essays in Honour of Sabyasachi Bhattacharya*

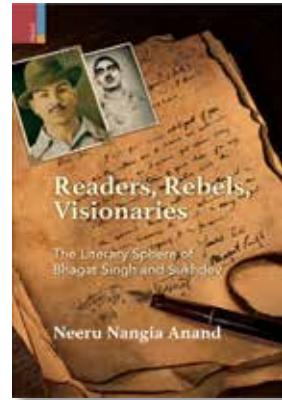
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**Editors**

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## Readers, Rebels, Visionaries

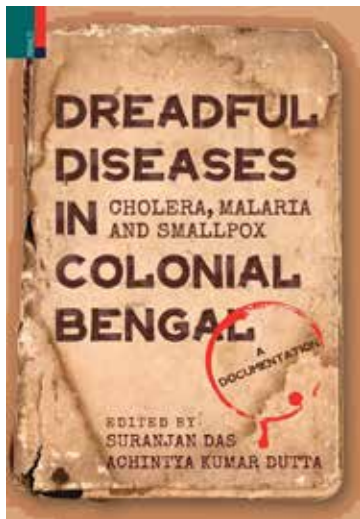
*The Literary Sphere of Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev*

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**NEERU NANGIA ANAND** is Associate Professor of English at Dyal Singh Evening College, University of Delhi.

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## Dreadful Diseases in Colonial Bengal

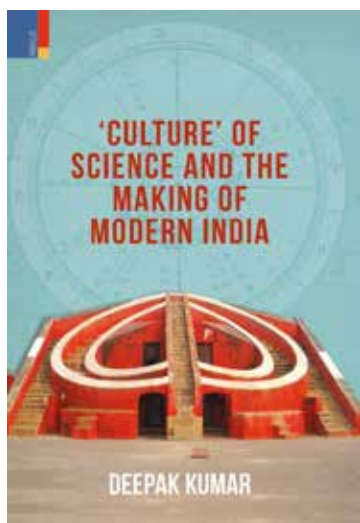
*Cholera, Malaria and Smallpox: A Documentation*

*Dreadful Diseases in Colonial Bengal* is the third volume produced under the aegis of the Wellcome Trust (London) funded documentation project 'Western Medicine and Indigenous Society: History of Disease, Medicine and Public Health Policy in Colonial Eastern India, (1757–1947)'. While the first volume documented the context in which hospitals were established in Calcutta during the rule of the British East India Company, and the second analysed the trauma caused by tuberculosis in the public health system of twentieth-century India, the present volume brings together selections from official reports on cholera, malaria and smallpox—the three diseases which repeatedly struck colonial Bengal as epidemics.

Editors

**SURANJANA DAS** is Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University and Honorary Director, Netaji Institute for Asian Studies, Kolkata.

**ACHINTYA KUMAR DUTTA** is Professor of History, University of Burdwan and former postdoctoral Commonwealth Fellow, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.



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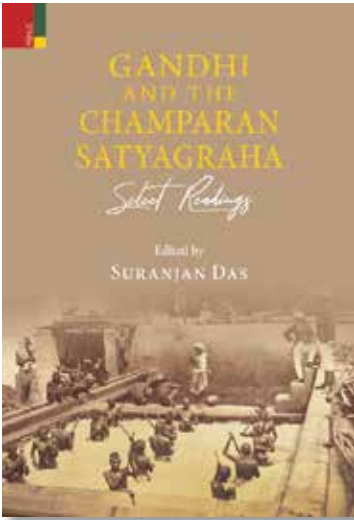
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**DEEPAK KUMAR** is retired Professor of History of Science and Education from Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2017.



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## Gandhi and the Champaran Satyagraha

### *Select Readings*

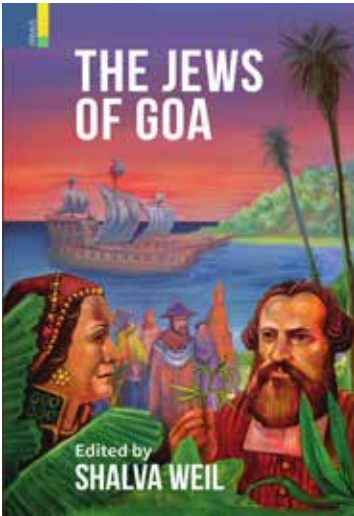
This volume looks back at the Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 through contemporary accounts and scholarly reflections. Organized into five parts, the collection contains passages from Gandhi's own recollection of the Satyagraha; excerpts from the accounts of participants such as Rajendra Prasad and J.B. Kripalani; statements of indigo ryots; selections from official documents; and extracts from the works of historians and academics.

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—Jawaid Alam, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Editor

**SURANJAN DAS** is Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University and Honorary Director, Netaji Institute for Asian Studies, Kolkata.



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Editor

**SHALVA WEIL** is Senior Researchers at the Research Institute for Innovation in Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

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## CONTACTS

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**Abhijeet Ghose**

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**Mukul Bisht**

+91 9313966153

mbisht@ratnasagar.com

### EAST INDIA

**Bhaskar Ghosal**

+91 9830012080

bghosal@ratnasagar.com

**Sanmitra Ghosh**

+91 9811973450

sanmitra.ghosh@primusbooks.com

### WEST & CENTRAL INDIA

**Abhijeet Ghose**

+91 8697233707

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### SOUTH INDIA

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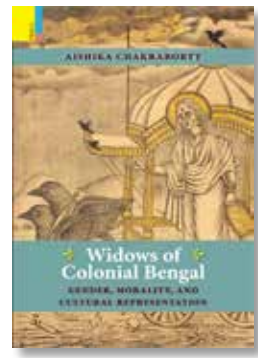
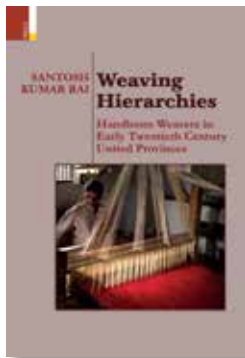
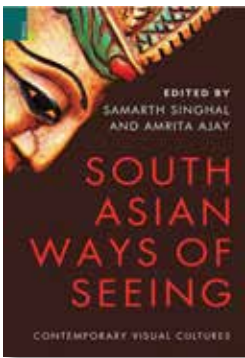
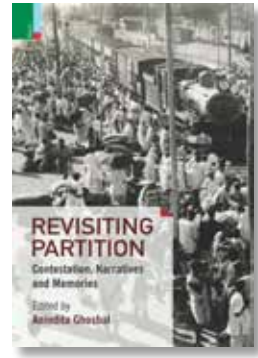
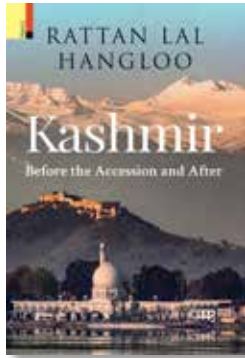
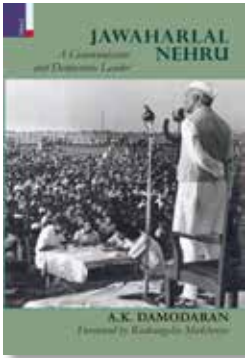
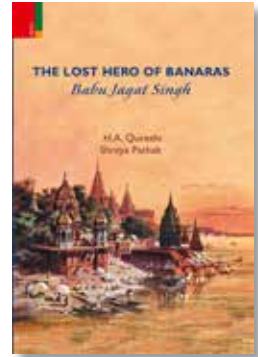
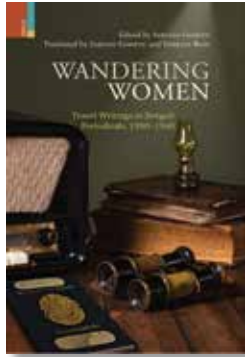
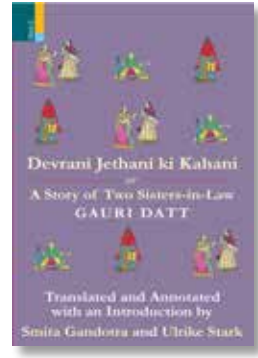
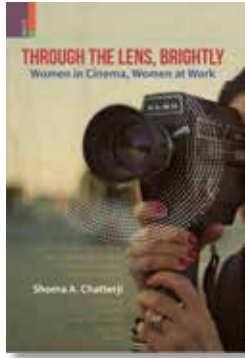
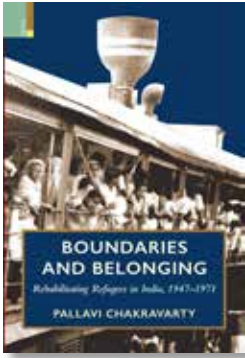
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