



SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

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Contents

<i>Editor Note</i>	iii
1. Archaeological Works of Arunachal Pradesh, India.....	219-227
<i>Tage Piku & Akoijam Milan Meitei</i>	
2. Revisiting the Culture of Cotton in the Past: Historical Cultivation Practices, Farmers Decision Making, Intensification of Production	229-242
<i>Avik Ray</i>	
3. Toumadhi Chowk and Nyataponla (Five-Storeyed) Temple of Bhaktapur, Nepal	243-249
<i>Balaram Kayastha</i>	
4. A Historical Perspective of 'Mithila' & 'Maithili's: Language, Culture, Geography, Economic, Education and Social Approach	251-258
<i>Deepesh Kumar Thakur</i>	
5. Coins of Mathura Ruler Gomitra	259-264
<i>Devendra Handa</i>	
6. Aspects of Tolerance and Violence under the Late Mughal Ruling Groups of..... Bengal in the Eyes of Contemporary Counter-Narrative	265-270
<i>Imon ul Hossain</i>	
7. Dynamic Linkages of Buddhist Civilization with the Architecture and Art of Stupa:..... (A Detailed Survey of Gandhara)	271-282
<i>Nighat Aslam & Mastoor Fatima Bukhari</i>	
8. Stars of Vedic <i>nakṣatra Śraviṣṭhā</i> : An Independent Identification.....	283-294
<i>Prabhakar Gondhalekar</i>	
9. Fitting Into 'Order': The Brahmanical World View, the Puranas and After	295-302
<i>Rohini Kar</i>	
10. A Preliminary Report on the Exploration Around Baidyanath, Mayurbhanj, Odisha.....	303-313
<i>Subrat Kumar Naik, Daitari Sahoo & Sasmita Nayak</i>	
11. A Study on Sacred Centre of <i>Paknapat</i> in the Mayurbhanj District of Odisha	315-324
<i>Suresh Chandra Murmu & Puspa Marandi</i>	
12. Restoration of Martand Sun Temple	325-334
<i>Uman Riyaz</i>	

Editor Notes

“South Asian History, Culture and Archaeology” (SAHCA) is a bi-annual peer reviewed journal that seeks to explore the close links between the different disciplines of history, art and archaeology. History is dependent upon sources and archaeological sources provide a vital component in the reconstruction of not only the remote past, but also of the not so distant one. Art is a mirror of society and cannot be studied without its historical context. Even modern art needs to be examined in the light of the social forces that have shaped it. Archaeology provides insights into past cultures, especially where there is a dearth of written records. The present journal is a platform where scholars from different disciplines can examine and explore the inter-related nature of the disciplines of history, art, culture and archaeology using a holistic approach. SAHCA strongly encourages trans-disciplinary analysis of contemporary and historical social change in Asia by offering a meeting space for international scholars across the social sciences, including anthropology, cultural studies, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology.

The journal contains twelve articles in this issue. **Tage Piku & Akoijam Milan Meitei** focusses on the prehistoric contexts of Arunachal Pradesh and reports which are made over the years. The study will give the insight importance of the region since prehistoric time, not only of the present day. This will enable to grasp the significance of archaeological study in the region and the values it gives in neighboring regions including northeast India (India as a whole) with Southeast Asian and East Asian region. **Avik Ray** discusses how the cultivation of cotton began to change responding to various socio-economic factors and intensification of production, especially in the twentieth century, was one of the drivers underlying such change. The study shows the apparent contrast between some critical dimensions of the past and present cultivation practice and shed light on a part of the agricultural history of cotton and its change. **Balaram Kayastha** elaborates how a magnificent and huge Nyataponla (five-Storeyed) temple of Siddhilaxmi, the powerful goddess of Tantra Shakti, was built on the right side of Bhairavnath temple in early 1700s. This can be considered as the effect of Tantra in art, because King Bhupatindra Malla who built this temple was considered an art connoisseur, great scholar and Tantric worshiper and at that time Bhaktapur was a Tantric state. Nyantaponla has its own special significance & identity in the historical & cultural heritage of the whole world. **Deepesh Kumar Thakur highlights** the origin of Maithili language and literature. The study reveals In the 18th century, when Mithila was still ruled in part by the Raj Darbhanga, the British Raj annexed the region without recognizing it as a princely state. In 2003, Maithili was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution as a recognised Indian language, which allows it to be used in education, government, and other official contexts in India. **Devendra Handa** discusses about the ancient Indian coins those issued by Mathura rulers. Very few coins of this ruler have come to light after Allan and the present paper lists new pieces from some private collections which betray variant and novel features and are important not only historically but also culturally and iconographically. **Imon ul Hossain** in his study draws an analysis of conflict against the established historical paradigm known as “syncretism.” The study is based on late-seventeenth-century counter-narratives of Mughal ruling groups, which have been completely avoided in the previous works.

Nighat Aslam & Mastoor Fatima Bukhari explores the dynamic linkages of great Buddhist civilization with the architecture and art of stupa of Gandhara is the principal subject of the present research. The proposed study is an effort to explore the Buddhist civilization and it's link with stupas in Gandhara. This research provides the new way of understanding of the Buddhist stupa and its link with

Buddhist civilization. The main purpose of this work is the direct study of the Buddhist stupas and assess its religious, cultural and historical importance. **Prabhakar Gondhalekar** discusses how the identification of asterism (without appeal to the coordinates of *yogatārās* given in the medieval/siddhāntic texts) is of crucial importance in the examination of the calendar and astronomy of the Vedic era. In the analysis presented here it is assumed that the alignment of the sun, (moon) and stars at winter solstice (at the start of a *yuga*) described in *Vedāṅga Jyotiṣa* was observed (seen) by the Vedic people. **Rohini Kar** seek to investigate the Brahmanal view of what was perceived as chaos and how 'order' was established through the various Brahmanical agencies like Puranas and myriad Smriti texts. However before foray is made into understanding how this process was initiated, it is imperative to understand the popular perception on Brahmanas and Brahmanism. **Subrat Kumar Naik, Daitari Sahoo & Sasmita Nayak** have made an intensive archaeological investigation in the study area in and around Baidhyanath which has resulted in the discovery of seven prehistoric sites and collected a good number of lithic assemblages of different Stone Age cultures. Here the paper delineates the nature of such sites and the typological classification of the lithic assemblages retrieved from the field survey. **Suresh Chandra Murmu & Puspa Marandi** in their study aim to examine the sacred centre of Paknapat located in the mountain near Kainpur village of Jamda Block in the district of Mayurbhanj, Odisha. It was found that though the elements of little traditions are still dominating, but certain elements of great tradition especially of the Hinduism are visible at present in the sacred performances. **Uman Riyaz** discusses about Martand Sun Temple at Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. The aim of this paper is to identify the problems and provide suggestive measures for restoration. Further it elaborates the historic importance of the site and how a heritage site can lead the way of economic development of the area after restoration

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