

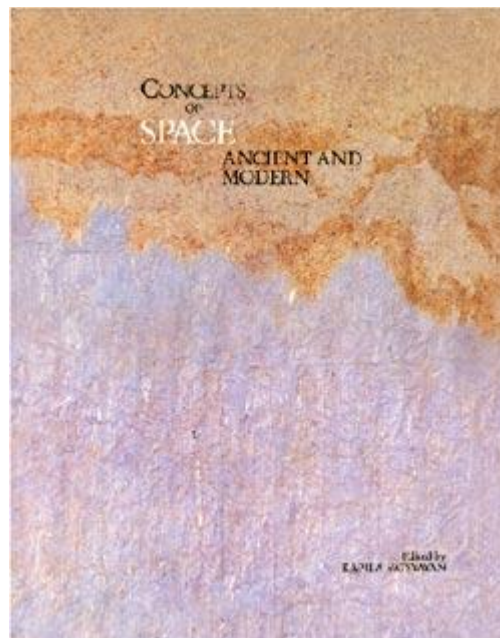
## Seminar Proceedings

### CONCEPT OF SPACE Ancient and Modern

Edited by KAPILA VATSYAYAN

1991 xxiv+665 pp., line drawings, col and b&w illus., index ISBN 81-7017-252-7, Rs 1200(HB)

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A seminar was held in New Delhi in November 1986 to explore the concepts of Space through diverse civilizations, ancient and modern disciplines - religion, art and architecture. Parallel and close affinities between ancient speculation and modern science was discovered and a stimulating dialogue was initiated among eminent physicists, astronomers, philosophers and scholars of comparative religion, art, architecture, literature, music, dance on the fascinating topic of Space. The volume includes papers submitted by delegates drawn from twenty-four countries. These include towering personalities such as Stella Kramrisch, Annemarie Schimmel, R. Panikkar, Raja Ramanna, B. Geza, Mani Kaul, Allegra Fuller Snyder and others. Each article opens up a new vista of exploration of a concept which has preoccupied the mind of man from the beginning of civilization.

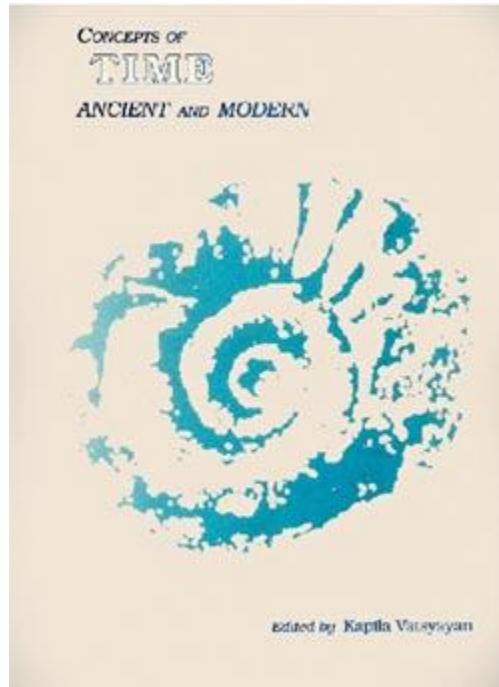
The volume breaks fresh ground in the field of interdisciplinary studies and will be invaluable to all those who are concerned with the inner life of reflection and the outer life of movement and action. The interrelation of the two and the theme of wholeness are the unity underlying the multifaceted articles included in the volume.

# CONCEPT OF TIME ANCIENT AND MODERN

Edited by KAPILA VATSYAYAN

1996, xxxviii+562pp. line drawings, col. and b&w illus., index ISBN:81-207-1644-2, Rs 1250(HB)

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The volume comprises a selection of fifty four papers presented at the seminar held in November 1990 at IGNCA where over sixty delegates from twelve countries and a dozen disciplines were engaged in profound and meaningful dialogue for six days. Each paper brings a penetrating insight into this all permeating and pervading preoccupation of man since the dawn of awareness of his being and becoming. The papers are grouped into eight sections: (1) Time: Concept, (2) Time: The Philosophic Discourse, (3) Time: Geological and Biological, (4) Time: Social and Cultural, (5) Time: Ritual, (6) Time: Response of the Arts, (7) Time: Consciousness, and (8) Time: Transcendence and Immanence.

## Contributors

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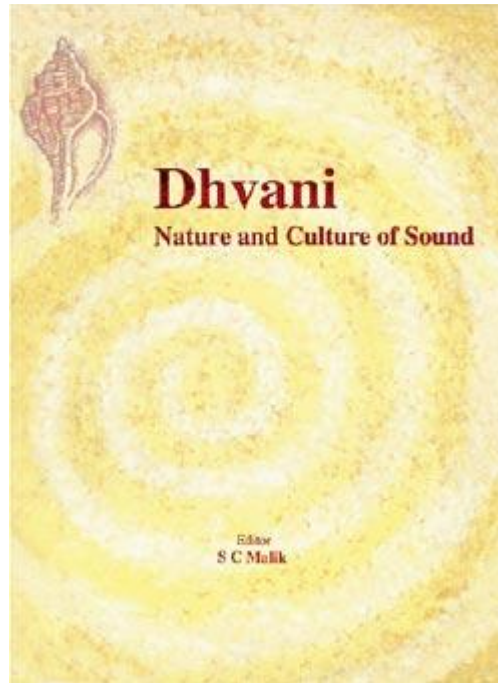
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# DHVANI NATURE AND CULTURE OF SOUND

Edited by S. C. MALIK

1998, viii+175pp., figs., ISBN: 81-246-0111-9, Rs 400 (HB)

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Assembled in this volume are the presentations of IGNCAs seminar exploring the various complex conceptual dimensions of sound, ranging from its mystical and traditionally metaphysical to its present-day developments, from its perceptions in indigenous musical theory to its futuristic applications. With focus around five thematic areas of the seminar: (a) Sound as the Source of Creation and Sources of Sound, (b) Sound and the Senses, (c) Sound and Space, (d) Sound and Time, and (e) Symbols of Sound and Sonic Designs, the contributors open up the possibilities of interaction among different disciplines involved in the study of *dhvani*-phenomenon.

# PRAKRTI : THE INTEGRAL VISION

General Editor Kapila Vatsyayan

81-246-0036-8 (SET) Price: Rs. 3000.00 US \$ 150

Co-Published by : IGNC A and D. K. Printworld (P) Ltd. Sri Kunj, H-12, Bali Nagar, New Delhi - 110 015

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Why do we feel warm in the sunlight? Why does the sun feel warm? Is it a physical phenomenon? Is it the body that feels warm? Is it nature that provides warmth? Is it only the sun that provides warmth? Or are there other elements in interaction with the body which produce the warmth? If it is the body that feels warm, then what is body? Is it matter? Is it an aggregation of five elements?" These ostensibly simple, childlike questions — asked by the distinguished scientist, the late Professor D.S. Kothari, at the very outset of an enlightening talk about three years ago — lead us to one of the mankind's universal concerns: **Prakriti**: a Sanskrit equivalent of **Nature**, in its broadest connotations.

Ever since man's first conscious awareness of the phenomena of nature around him, and yet more of his indispensable dependence in primal elements (*bhutas/mahabhutas*), *Prakriti* has evoked varying responses in science, philosophy, religion, arts, and in civilizations as far apart as Egyptian, Chinese, Greek and Indian — permeating expressions through the written or the oral words, generating a language of myth and symbol which communicates across cultures. Already countless myths of the origin of the universe, creation, cosmology and cosmogony have been developed on the concept of the Elements/*Bhutas*: earth, air, water, fire, and space (ether). Already there exists a vast body of sources and an equally extensive, highly complex history of critical discourse on the nature of primal elements and their indispensability not only to man, but to all life on earth.

Supporting the Rigvedic verse: "Truth is one, (though) man knows it by different names", *Prakriti: The Integral Vision* explores, through "different paths", a single universal theme: the concept of Primal Elements (*Bhutas/Mahabhutas*): earth, air, water, fire and space, and how this concept has, over the ages, been viewed in different cultures which, undoubtedly, have shaped the evolution of human civilization. The authors, representing a whole variety of academic disciplines, look afresh at folklorist accounts, scriptural literature, religious traditions, and different genres of art to conjure an intergal vision of *prakriti* — with insightful perspectives on the 'nature of matter' and 'man in nature'.

*Prakriti: The Integral Vision* assumes an added significance today, when man is threatened by pollution: inner and outer, of his own making. Though contemporary idiom and through illustration, it revalidates the vital importance of primal elements: the very fundamentals that make human life possible on the earth — emphasizing that the maintenance, sustenance and purity of these "primary and primal" elements are not matters of intellectual discourse alone, but have to be the objectives of our life, lest death overtakes us!

Indisputably a monumental work, offered in five inter-locked volumes, *Prakriti: The Integral Vision* carries insightful, at once stimulating reflections of the internationally known physicists, biologists, astronomers, chemists, geophysicists on the scientific side, and of the equally renowned scholars of humanities, holistic medicine, ancient Indian literature, *Ayurveda* and other disciplines — on the traditional side.

## Books of Prakriti Series

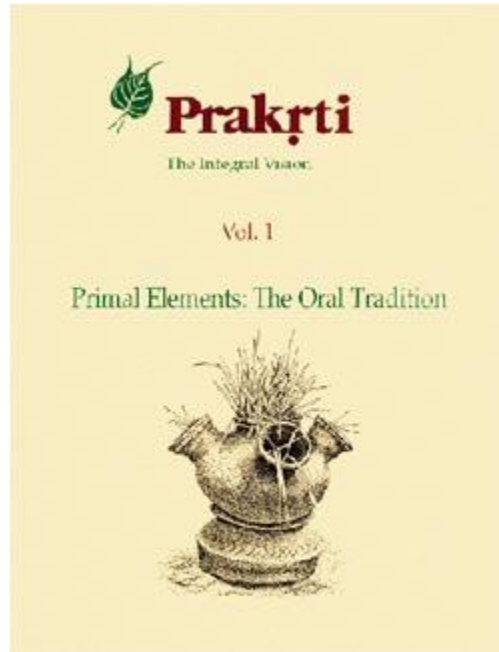
**PRAKRITI** : The Integral Vision explores the concept of the Primal Elements (Sky, Air, Fire, Water, Earth) which has governed and determined the evolution of civilizations and cultures. This 5 volume collection is the outcome of a series of five successive but inter-locked seminars culminating into cross-cultural, multi-disciplinary understanding.

Each volume contains a foreword by the General Editor.

### VOL. 1 **PRIMAL ELEMENTS : THE ORAL TRADITION**

**Edited by BAIDYANATH SARASWATI**  
1995 xv+190pp. index, ISBN: 81-246-0037-6, Rs 600(HB)

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This is the first volume that focuses attention on the articulation of cohesive communities communicating the elements in continuous unceasing dialogue. To them the nature is not a matter of intellection; it is a question of life here and now. This is manifested in their primary myths and rituals which sacralize nature so that man can live as an integral part of the Universe.

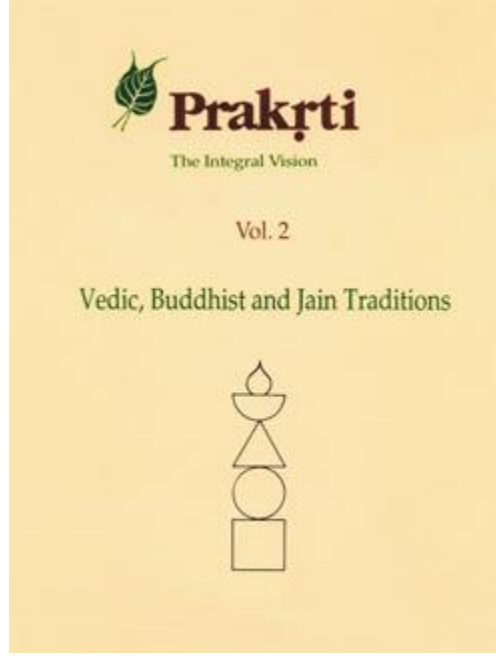
**VOL. 2**

**VEDIC, BUDDHIST AND JAIN TRADITIONS**

**Edited by SAMPAT NARAYAN**

1995, xiv+153pp index, ISBN: 81-246-0038-4, Rs 600(HB)

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The second volume in the series on Prakṛti centres on the texts, probing deep into the Vedic rituals, Upaniṣadic philosophies and Jyotiṣa Śāstra. There is a prodigious consideration of the concept of mahābhūtas in Buddhism and Jainism. It also brings forth the many convergences and divergences of the viewpoints between and amongst these different streams of Indian thought.

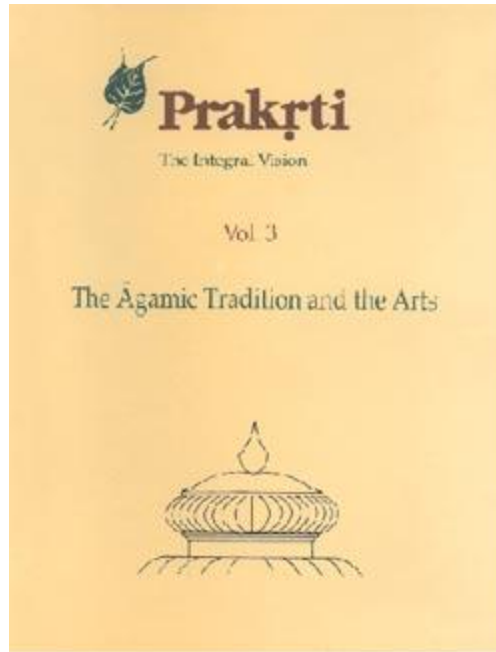
VOL. 3

**THE ĀGAMIC TRADITION AND THE ARTS**

Edited by **BETTINA BAUMER**

1995, xiv+193pp. col. and b&w plates, index, ISBN: 81-246-0039-2, Rs 600(HB)

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This volume examines systematically the manifestation of the elements in the Indian arts and their Āgamic background. From the different vantage points of the architect, sculptor, painter, musician and dancer the field is reopened here to discern the structure of the arts at its primal level. Experiences of the transformation of the gross to the subtle and the theories of aesthetic and cultural ecology emerge from such a captivating view-point.



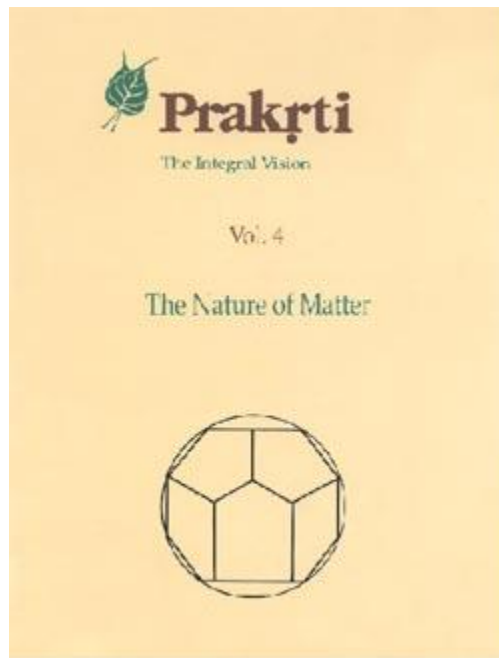
VOL. 4

## THE NATURE OF MATTER

Edited by JAYANT V. NARLIKAR

1995, xiv+228pp., index, ISBN: 81-246-0040-6, Rs 600

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The fourth volume in the series offers a much-needed critical appraisal of modern scientific concepts with reference to traditional thoughts. It contains invaluable discussion of quantum theory and elementary particles, evolution of living matter, nature and function of matter, scientific philosophy and Buddhist thought, Sankhya theory of matter, ancient and medieval biology, mysticism and modern science, traditional cosmology, matter and medicine, matter and consciousness, etc. The dialogue created between the method of science and the method of speculation is invigorating.

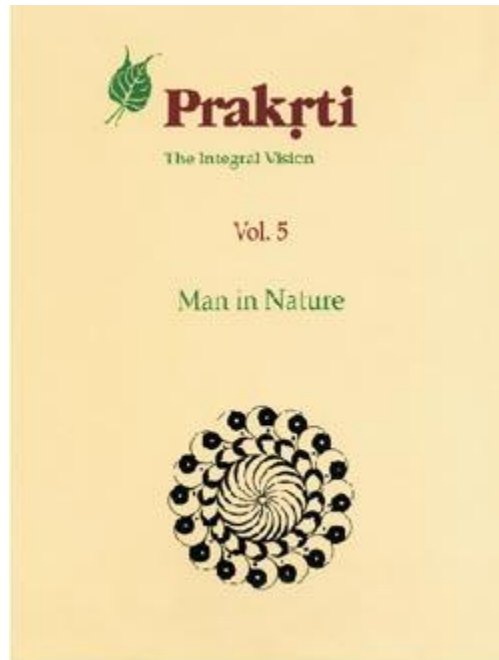
VOL. 5

**MAN IN NATURE**

**Edited by BAIDYANATH SARASWATI**

1995, xii+270pp., figs., col. plates, index, ISBN: 81-246-0041-4, Rs 600(HB)

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The fifth volume on Man in Nature is a coming together of cultures and disciplines. Enchanting in their own way, the international community of scientists, philosophers, anthropologists, ecologists and artists, share in this volume the myths and cosmology of their respective societies and cultures. There emerges a most meaningful dialogue between those who live with the myths of primordial elements and those who have modified the tools of science to investigate the nature of matter.

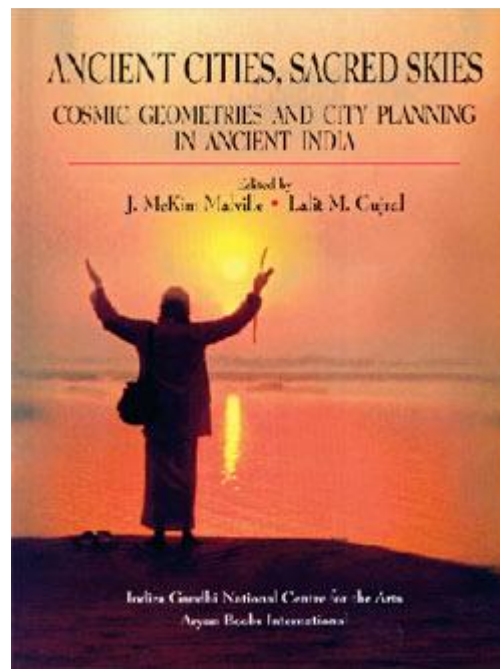
## **ANCIENT CITIES, SACRED SKIES:**

### **COSMIC GEOMETRIES AND CITY PLANNING IN ANCIENT INDIA**

**Edited by J. MCKIM and L. M. GUJRAL**

2000, xii+138pp., line drawings, b&w plates, gloss. index, ISBN: 81-7305-189-5, Rs. 900 (HB)

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The seven technical papers presented here in this volume endeavour to re-create as fully as possible the mind-scape of the people as it effected the structures of their cities. The cities and landscapes described cover a time span of over 4,500 years from the Harappan city of Dholavira to the great empire of Vijayanagara kings. It also talks about the architects who designed some of the cosmic geometries of these cities.

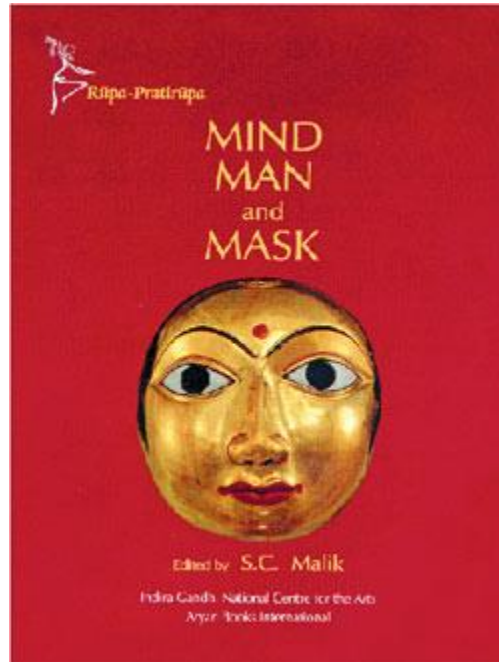
It is hoped that this interdisciplinary study of the subject will facilitate a deeper comprehension of the relationship of the physio-cultural, economic dimensions and the planning and organization of specific territory.

# RŪPA-PRATIRŪPA: MIND, MAN AND MASK

Edited by S.C. MALIK

2001, xli+334pp., line drawings, col. and b&w plates, ISBN:81-7305-192-5, Rs. 2750 (HB)

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An ancient Indian hymn describes Man's first conscious reflection on creation as: " ... the contemplative mind conceives of everything from nothing ... only Mind was there ... neither existent nor non-existent. ... That the Truth is hidden in a golden jar.

... That which covers the Truth, the Mind and the Man, is the Mask". There are so many traditions all over the world that have basic ground of existence. From this theoretical base several questions may be raised within the contemporary cultural context when alternative ways of future scenarios are being considered: Who is man? What is the Person/Self? The answers may be given in terms of *Purusa* (cosmic man) in India; in Greece the word *Prosopon* and the Latin word *Persona* assumed the meaning of personage. Thus Mind, Man and Person are closely interlinked; and in this context there are diverse concepts, notions and paradigms to the query-"What is Mask?"

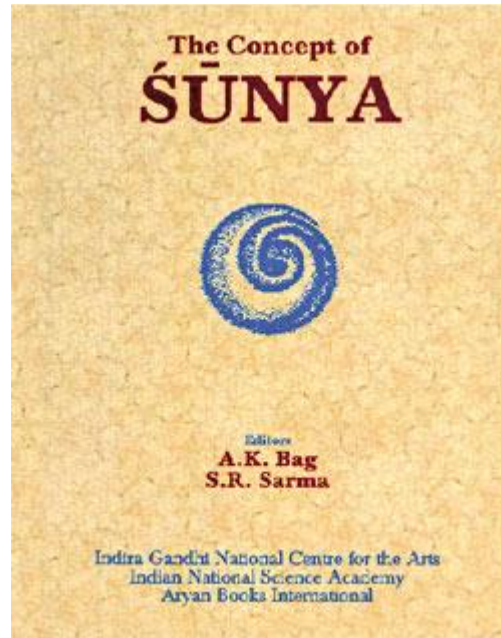
It is clear to all that the Mask has the power to reveal as also the power to conceal the "self/Self". The present volume containing the proceedings of the seminar held at IGNCA in 1998 on "Rūpa-Pratirūpa: Man, Mind and Mask" reflects a turning point in the series of seminars held earlier at IGNCA on the themes: Time (Kāla), Space (Ākāśa), Form (Ākāra) Primal Elements (Prakṛti), Chaos and Order (Rta-Rta) and Sound (Dhvani). It now deals directly with the human being. It also deals with how humankind has attempted to move into the inner realm of the self/Self and the Mind of Man . Contributors have responded from the viewpoint of their own field of specialization and they reflect views of diverse cultures and societies.

# THE CONCEPT OF ŚŪNYA

Edited by A.K. BAG and S.R. SARMA

2003, xiii+287pp., ISBN: 81-7305-240-9, Rs. 1250 (HB)

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The concept of śūnya in India has a long history and varied manifestations in different dimensions, in mathematics, in philosophy and in mysticism. In mathematical literature it is used in the sense of "zero" having no substantial numeral value of its own but playing the key role in the system of decimal notation, to express all numbers with nine digits, one to nine and the śūnya as the tenth. The application of śūnya in this system of notation was discovered in India some time in the pre-Christian era. Its concretization in the form of a dot or a small circle and its use in decimal place value system was first transmitted to the Middle-East and thence to Europe to supplant the Greek and Roman systems, and the whole world slowly recognized it as the most scientific system of numeration.

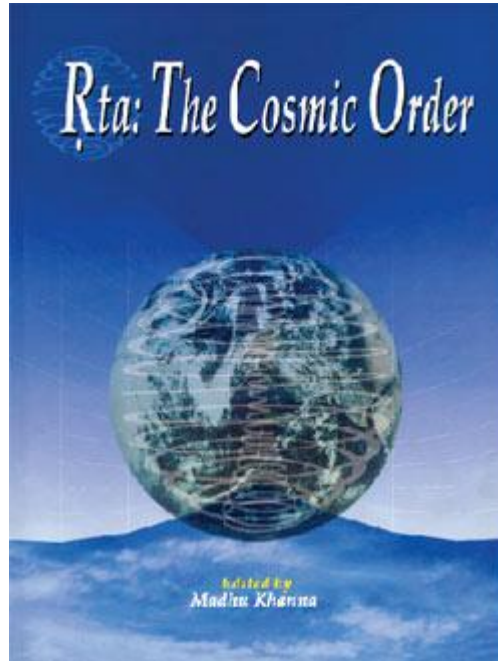
The present volume is the outcome of a joint seminar organized by Indian National Science Academy and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and aims at a documented account of various facets of śūnya in mathematics and astronomy and its various ramifications in philosophy and arts.

## **ṚTA: THE COSMIC ORDER**

**Edited by MADHU KHANNA**

2004, x+326pp., 34 b&w figs., 21 col. Photographs; index; ISBN: 81-246-0252-2, Rs. 1200 (HB)

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This volume contains the articles, presented in a seminar at IGNCA on Ṛta: The Cosmic Order in which a panel of distinguished Indian and foreign scholars interpret the multifaceted theme of Ṛta from a wide range of perspectives, comparing notions of order in Hindu, Buddhist, Chinese and Islamic speculative thought and with references to ancient Indian Hindu writings and modern science. Combining sound scholarship with a penetrating insight, these essays are a fine example of integrated studies. They give alternative viewpoints on the unity underlying this ancient concept as well as, its relevance in the modern age.

## FOLKLORE, PUBLIC SPHERE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Edited by M.D. MUTHUKUMARASWAMY and MOLLY KAUSHAL

2004, x+317pp., ISBN: 81-901481-4-1, Rs. 400

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The discipline of folklore has always addressed the travel of folklore by consistently paying attention to several versions of the same texts and by offering meticulous sociological accounts for their existence. The philosophical premise of acknowledging versions even when they are contradictory lends itself, by expansion, to a vision of a multitude of public spheres inside a civil society. The emerging vision of society is one of polyphonic concert punctuated by recognizable gestures. What we see is a "performing society" that generates public opinion not necessarily through rational verbal arguments and dialogues but also through gestures, genres, frames, versions, performances, stories, narratives and codes.

It is precisely in this context that folklore studies reveal how communities break hierarchies, articulate aspirations that are political and otherwise, constitute new identities, establish inter-cultural contacts and undergo changes through cultural borrowings. As identities are constantly created and recreated, what we encounter through folklore is a complex cultural phenomenon not necessarily rational but in alignment with the logic of the cultures concerned. Such processes do create and influence public opinion.

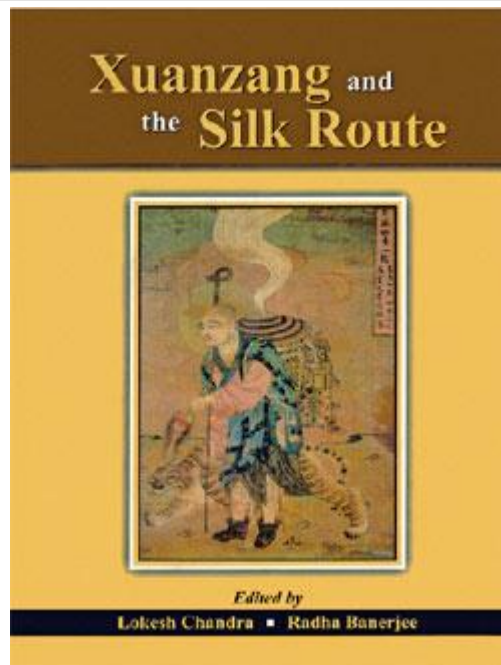
This collection of papers presented in a symposium organized in New Delhi in 2002 aligns three sociological categories - folklore, public sphere and civil society in relation to each other in order to capture social and cultural dynamics.

## XUANZANG AND THE SILK ROUTE

Edited by LOKESH CHANDRA and RADHA BANERJEE

2008, xxii+292pp., ISBN: 978-81-215-1186-5, Rs. 1000 (HB)

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China as we know is a great civilization and Xuanzang's (who is popularly known as Hsuan-tsang) visit to India was a great event. The noted Chinese traveller and Buddhist pilgrim, Xuanzang, reached India in CE 630, having undertaken arduous journey across Central Asia. A Chinese emperor called him "the jewel of the empire". Nearly fourteen years of his life (from CE 630 to 644) were spent visiting Buddhist temples and monasteries, cities and places of interest in the Indian subcontinent. He was a keen observer of men and affairs. Apart from being a devout monk, he has left behind a fascinating and authentic account of India's history, geography, economy and society of the times when King Hara ( CE 606-47) ruled over northern India. This volume contains articles on the life and achievement of Xuanzang. Dharma master Xuanzang came to India particularly in search of Buddhist texts which were not available in China. He studied his favourite text *Yogācārabhūmiśāstra* under the famous teacher Śīlabhadra of Nalanda. He was a great recorder of historical sites of the Silk Route. His description of the Silk Route countries in Afghanistan and Gandhara are valuable for the political and cultural history of these lands. The study of Bamiyan monasteries and colossal *buddhas* have inspired art historians to make a thorough study of the cultural history of Afghanistan.

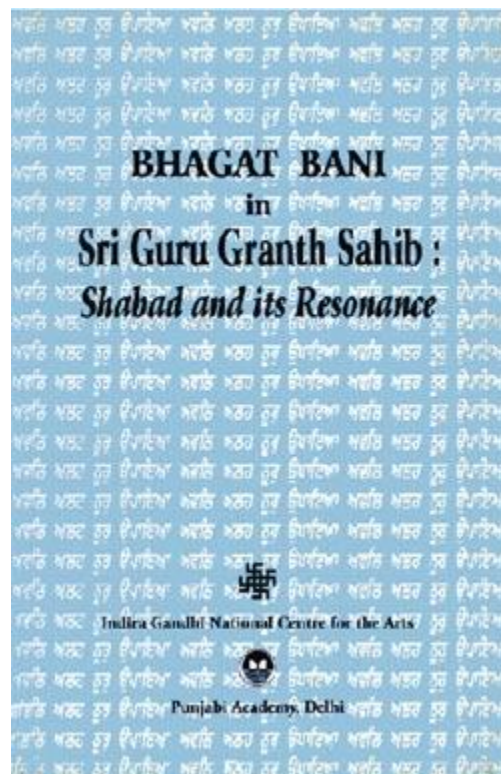
The articles in this volume show, through wide range of studies, not only Xuanzang's love and knowledge of Buddhism, but also an account of various countries and their cultural heritage.



# BHAGAT BANI IN SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB: SHABAD AND ITS RESONANCE

Edited by J.S. NEKI, S.S. NOOR, MOLLY KAUSHAL

2008, 126pp., Introduction, Preface, Rs. 150



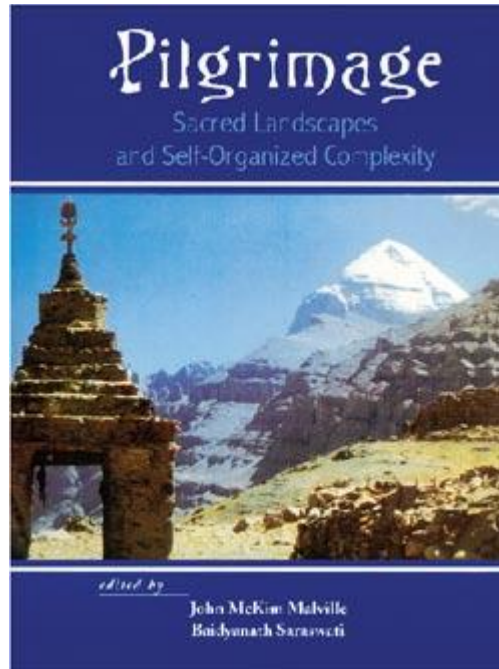
This book is an outcome of the seminar jointly organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and Punjabi Academy, Delhi in December, 2006 on "Confluence of Traditions: Bhagat Bānī in Śrī Guru Granth Sahib". The IGNCA, since its very inception has been conducting research and documenting musical heritage of diverse communities of India under its Ādi Śravya (primal sound) programme of the Janapada Sampada Division. The focus of the Ādi Śravya programme is on the chanted, sung and recited word. The bānī of gurus and saints contained in Śrī Guru Granth Sāhib provides a unique and distinct experience of this sacred Śabda. Folk, devotional and classical music has flourished side by side in Punjab for centuries. Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam, the dominant religious faiths of Punjab, each have their distinct music repertoires, linked to a specific setting; spiritual and aesthetic needs. The four divisions of Punjabi's musical repertoire Sūfiānā Qalām, Qawwśli, gurmat saṅgīt and bhakti saṅgīt - are rooted in specific spiritual experience.

# PILGRIMAGE : SACRED LANDSCAPES AND SELF-ORGANIZED COMPLEXITY

Edited by JOHN MCKIM MALVILLE and BAIDYANATH SARASWATI

2009, vii+337, ISBN 13-10:978-81-246-0454-0, 81-246-0454-1 Rs. 1100

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Pilgrimage involves movement of people, either as individuals or as members of a group in search of the sacred. Pilgrimages may start with individual ecstatic visions, unusual strange unworldly experiences, which are the experiences of "ordinary" people, certainly not of priests or politicians. Often they are uniquely human experiences which embarrass ecclesiastical authorities. As a pilgrimage tradition evolves, sacred sites may become formalized in organized socio-political systems with economic overtone. Even in these structured situations, individual people may still have powerful individual experiences. Eventually a pilgrimage tradition may be taken over by religious and political authorities, lose spontaneity, and become frozen in time. But even in these situations, in which large numbers of people may gather, there is a tremendous amount of "primal" energy in which innovations and visions may be evoked.

Using case-studies from pilgrimages around the world, the volume explores the ways many of these traditions have started and evolved. A common perspective is that of self-organization of complex structures in space and time. The variety of pilgrimage described in the book is remarkable. The subcontinent of India is the location of many sites such as the temples to the nine planets in Tamil Nadu, the pilgrimage circuits of Varanasi, early Buddhist pilgrimages in Sāñcī and Bodh-Gayā, the great ruined city of Vijayanagara, those associated with the Riimiiya1Ja, and the death ceremonies at Gayā. Beyond India, the self-organization and stability of pilgrimage systems are analysed for pilgrimages in Nepal (Kathmandu), Japan, Mexico, the Caribbean, Peru, Norway, and the US

# **THE SILK ROAD : Trade, Caravan Serais, Cultural Exchanges and Power Game**

**Edited by Mansura Haider**

2014, xxvi + 330 pp., Figs. & Maps 16 ISBN : 978-81-7305-528-7 , Rs.2500(HB)

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The Silk Road not only developed and enhanced trade and commerce between the East and the West, but was also a significant factor in facilitating cultural and social interaction across continents. Given the historic and cultural importance of this transcontinental route, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts(IGNCA), along with the Eurasia Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India had organised an International Seminar on 'Cities, Roads and Caravan Serais - An Emblem of Relations through the Ages" which was held during 8-12 January 2008. This volume contains the proceedings of the seminar.

## **Kumarajiva: Philosopher and Seer**

Edited by : Shashi Bala

2015,xv+346 pp., ISBN 13 : 978-93-80935-61-4, Rs.1500(HB).

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## **Delhi: A Living Heritage**

Project Director : AG Krishna Menon, Editors: Swapna Liddle & Annabel Lopeg

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