



JNANA-PRAVAHA

Centre for Cultural Studies & Research

Varanasi

2022-2023

AT A GLANCE

JNANA-PRAVAHA

Centre for Cultural Studies & Research

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Our Other Publications

Jñāna-Pravāha Research Journal (Volumes 1 to 25)
A New Ashokan Inscription from Ratanpurwa
Jaina Contribution to Varanasi
Vaishnava Contribution to Varanasi
Shakta Contribution to Varanasi
The Universe that is God
Glimpses of Paintings from Kala Mandapa
Kashi Ki Deva-Vigraha Yatra
Shree Radha Ka Samskritika Paridrishya
Brahmanda Purana Ka Samskritika Paridrishya
Kashmir Shaiva Parampara Evam Pratibha Vimarsha

Facsimile Editions

Kalidasa-Parva : Raghuvamsham-Meghadutam
Purana-Parva : Shaiva Concept in Vayu Purana
Bliss of Upanishads : Chhandogya Upanishad
Purana-Parva : Cultural Gleanings from Kurma Purana
Bliss of Upanishads : Ishavasyopanishad-Kathopanishad
Reflection of Vedas in Classical Sanskrit Literature
Purana-Parva : Cultural Gleanings from Agni Purana
Purana-Parva : Cultural Glimpses from Vishnu Purana
Fairs and Festivals of Varanasi
Bliss of Upanishads : Brihadaranyakopanishad
Reflection of Vedas in Hindi Literature
Sukriti
Purana-Parva : Cultural Glimpses from Matsya Purana
Purana-Parva : Cultural Glimpses from Varaha Purana
Purana-Parva : Cultural Glimpses from Vamana Purana
Purana-Parva : Cultural Glimpses from Brahma Purana
Purana-Parva : Cultural Glimpses from Shiva-Mahapurana
Contribution of Goswami Tulsidas to Kashi
Interaction Between Nigama and Agama
Sanskrit Sahitya Mein Ganga

TEXT COMPILATION Chandraneel Sharma
DESIGN Krishna Singh



प्रसादाद्विश्वनाथस्य काश्यां भागीरथीतटे ।
वृद्धिर्ज्ञानप्रवाहे स्यात् संस्कृतेश्चानुशीलने ॥

*prasādādvīśvanāthasya kāśyām bhāgīrathītaṭe /
vṛddhirjñānapravāhe syāt saṁskṛteścānuśīlane ॥*

*Nourished with the Grace of Lord Viśvanātha, Jñāna-Pravāha rests on the bank of Gaṅgā in Kāśī,
Dedicated to the Pursuit of Knowledge and Enrichment of Culture.*



🌀 Jñāna-Pravāha Bodies 🌀

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Member/Coordinator

Jnana-Pravaha Mumbai (JPM)

Prof Rashmi Poddar: *Hon. Director*
Smt Smriti Morarka: *Trustee*

Jñāna-Pravāha Trust was registered on June 26, 1997 under the Registrar of Assurances, Reg. No. being 1110 of 1997 and is also registered under section 12A of IT Act 1961. Registration No. being DIT-(E)T 122/8E/86/97-98 dated 14.01.1998. The Trust is exempted from Income Tax under section 80G.

Aims & Objectives

- Bring together scholars of various nationalities on a common platform of cultural expression.
- Foster in-depth study of ancient & obscure Indian scripts.
- Encourage & Support advance research in Indian art, culture, archaeology and metaphysics.
- Organize seminars, lectures, advanced study courses and workshops.
- Support artisans to preserve their hereditary skills of handicrafts.
- Nurture cultural values among young generation through interaction
- Train novitiates for learned priesthood to cater the needs of society.
- Revive the performance of Sanskrit theatre and Vedic yajña.
- Endow scholarships and fellowships to young scholars for further training in Indian classical music and study Indian art & culture.
- Explore, Excavate and Document heritage sites and ancient ruins of historical value.

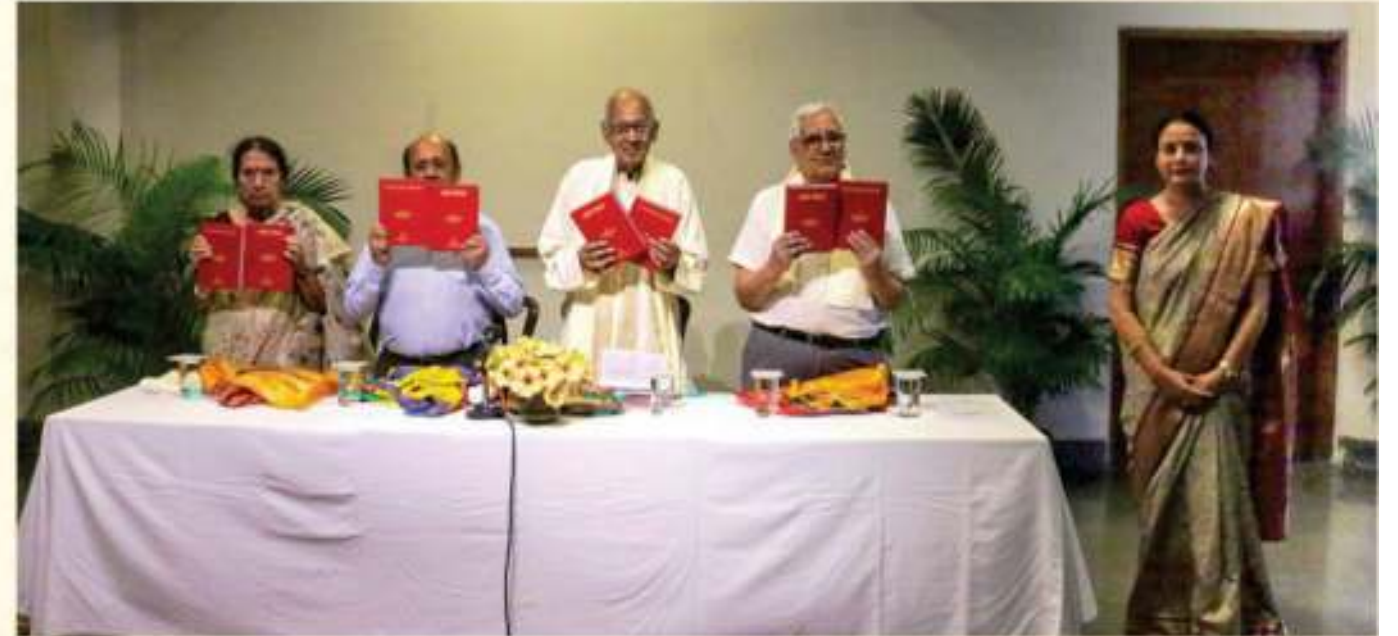


Commencement of Academic Session 2022-2023

The New Academic Session 2022-2023 of Jñāna-Pravāha commenced on 31st July 2022. The publications, viz. Jñāna-Pravāha Research Journal No.XXV, Annual Report : 2021-2022 At a Glance, Wall Paintings of Banaras: Treasures from Mahamaya Temple, Dhvani - Seminar Proceedings, Kashi Ke Shiv-Vigrah Tatha Shiv-Mandir - Seminar Proceedings and Shri Krishna Charan Leen : Dr. N.P. Joshi Commemoration Volume were released on the occasion by the Chief Guest Prof. Maruti Nandan Prasad Tiwari & the Guest-of-Honour Prof. Kalyan Krishna.

15th Prof. R.C. Sharma Memorial Lecture on Ram-katha in Indian Sculptures

Speaker: Prof. Kamal Giri, Former Director, Jnana-Pravaha, Varanasi





Memorial & Special Lectures

11 September 2022 🇮🇳

6th Suresh Neotia Memorial Lecture on Taste of Faithfulness: Salt Production, Trade and Consumption in Early India

Speaker: Prof. Susmita Basu Majumdar, Kolkata



13 November 2022

16th James Prinsep Memorial Lecture on Education System as Reflected in Early Indian Epigraphs

Speaker: Dr. T. S. Ravishankar, Mysuru





08 December 2022

Special Lecture on Mughal Influence on Pahari Painting
Speaker: Padmashri Dr. Vijay Sharma Chamba

SEMINAR

The National and International Seminars are organized on variegated subjects with/without collaboration with other organization/s.

26 March 2023

International Seminar cum Workshop on Money, Monetization & Monetary History [Organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences & Numismatic Society of India, Banaras Hindu University in collaboration with Jñān-Pravāha, Varanasi]

Coordinators: Prof. Susmita Basu Majumdar & Dr. Amit Kumar Upadhyaya



COURSES & WORKSHOPS

Scholars and Experts of their fields are invited from time to time to conduct about seven to fourteen days long courses and workshops in which a large number of university students, research scholars and teachers participate.



07-13 November 2022
Course on Epigraphy and Palaeography
Coordinator: Dr. T.S. Ravishankar, Mysuru



07-11 September 2022
Workshop on Ancient Indian Numismatics with Live Demonstration of Minting Techniques.
Coordinators: Prof. Susmita Basu Majumdar & Shri Ravi Shankar Sharma, Kolkata



14-20 November 2022
Introductory Course on Stone Age: Men, Tools and Cultures
Coordinators: Prof. Vidula Jayaswal & Dr. J. Rapheal





**VASANTIKI - MUSIC
CONCERT**

11 March 2023

Padmabhushan

Ustad Rashid Khan

Accompanists: Shri Arman Khan
& Shri Nag Nath Adgaonkar, Dr.
Vinay Kumar Mishra, Pt. Ram
Kumar Mishra, Shri Murad Ali
Khan



29 November - 08 December 2022

Workshop on Pahari Painting

Coordinator: Padmashri Dr. Vijay Sharma, Chamba

Guidance: Prof. Anjan Chakraverty







SHRAUTA YAGA - VEDIC YAJNA

Mitravindeshti is performed on the auspicious Mahashivaratri day every year not only with the desire to revive and preserve our ancient tradition of performing the Vedic yajnas, but also with the objectives to purify our environment and seek the welfare of all living beings.

18 February 2023 [Maha-Shivaratri]

Shrauta Yaga: Mitravindeshti
Performed by Pandit Aravind
Pandey & Group, Basti





SANSKRIT PLAY

With the prime objective of preservation and propagation of the Sanskrit language, the original plays written in Sanskrit by the celebrated playwrights like Kalidasa, Bhasa, Bhatta Narayana, etc. are produced and staged by the Jñāna-Pravāha almost every year in Varanasi and any other city within India or abroad on request.

26 March 2023

Sanskrit Play Karnabharam by Bhasa

[Staged at Nagari Natak Mandali, Varanasi]

Directed by Prof. Yugal Kishor Mishra & Prof. Chandrakanta Rai



JNANA-PRAVAHA SAMSKAR & ANUSHTHAN KENDRA

A separate centre is run by Jnana-Pravaha at Meer Ghat which aims to prepare competent purohitas (priests) well-versed in traditional knowledge through intensive three-year theoretical and practical training imparted in age old oriental Gurukula style.

09 October 2022

Deekshant Samaroh (Convocation) of the students of Jnana-Pravaha Samskar & Anushtan Kendra, Meer Ghat, Varanasi

Chief Guest: Acharya Nagendra Pandey, Chairman, Shri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir Trust, Varanasi

Guest-of-Honour: Shri Deepak Agrawal, Commissioner, Varanasi Zone

Chairperson: Prof. Yugal Kishor Mishra, Former VC, JRRSU, Jaipur & Acharya/Trustee, Jnana-Pravaha, Varanasi





PRERANA-PRAVAHA - INSPIRING THE YOUTH

The events under this feature are organized with an objective to inspire the school and university students to understand and respect the ethos of Indian Culture and its true values through mutual interactions, debates, quizzes, antyaksharis and educational tours.



Visitors



Hon Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, IAS (Retd.), Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs & Culture, Government of India - 16.10.2022



Shri K Satyanarayana, IPS, GP, Varanasi Range - 13.01.2023



Mr Vasudevan Akkitham and Ms Manusha Doshi -



Shri G Ranga Rao, IAS (Retd.) and Shri Vidya Sagar Ailawadi - 13.10.2022



Pichhawai border, printed and painted *Kalamkari*, 19th century, Coromandel coast, Andhra Pradesh

KALA-MANDAPA - THE MUSEUM

Kala-mandapa, the museum of Jñāna-Pravāha, initially started with the personal collection of Late Shri Suresh Neotia, but in the subsequent years, it was further enriched with the acquisitions and gifts of antiquities from the well-wishers. Now it houses a good collection of unique paintings, sculptures, copperplates, coins, textiles, terracotta figurines, manuscripts, excavated objects from archaeological sites and a unit dedicated to the culture of Kashi.

Folios from *Bhagwat Gita* manuscript, 19th century, Kashmir



REFERENCE LIBRARY

The Jñāna-Pravāha Reference Library contains more than 12,000 titles pertaining to Indian Culture, Sanskrit, Philosophy, Art, Architecture, Sculpture, History, Religion, Script, Inscriptions, Archaeology, Textile, Painting, Numismatics and allied subjects. Some rare manuscripts further enrich the collection of the Library. Research Scholars are allowed to study in this Reference Library at a nominal fee of Rs.100/= per annum. Except Monday, it is open for all on working days, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



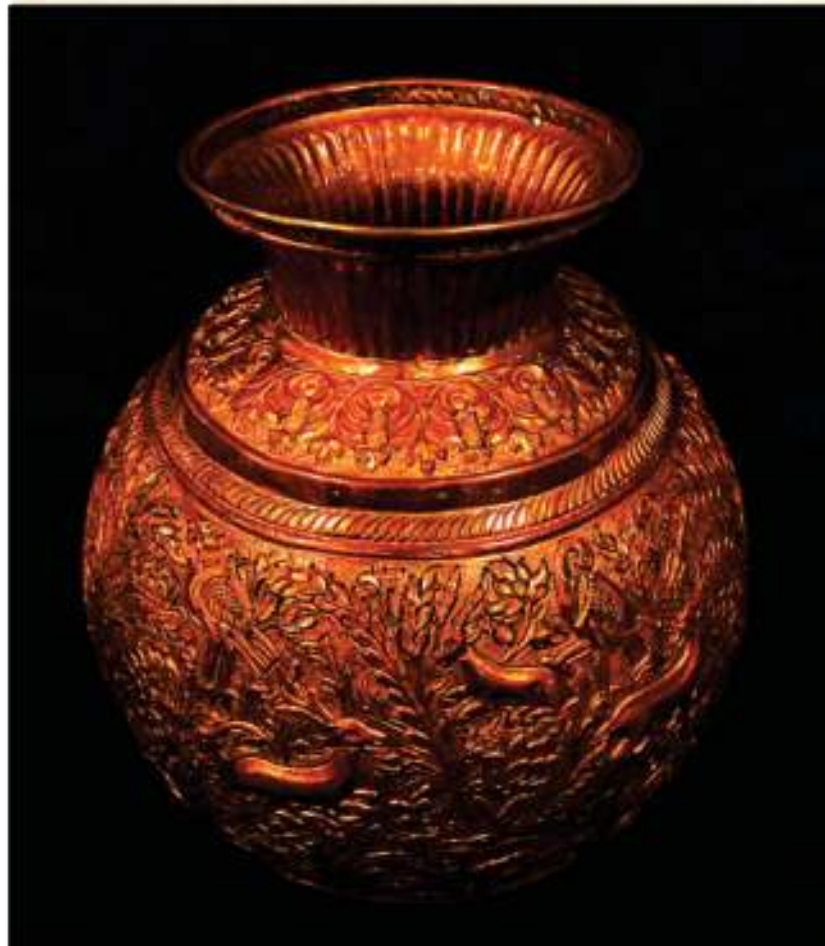
Dr. Jayprakash Pandey in the dispensary

SOCIAL SERVICE

A Charitable Homeopathic Dispensary, currently managed by Dr. Jayprakash Pandey, is being run by Jñāna-Pravāha since its inception with the objective to render free treatment and free medicines to the poor patients who cannot afford to meet the costly medical expenses. Nearly 20,000 needy patients from both urban and rural areas avail of this facility every year.



SHILPASHALA - THE HANDICRAFT ATELIER



This Art & Craft Development and Promotion Wing is established to preserve and promote the fast diminishing ancient art and craft of Varanasi –repousse and ashtadhatu casting – by creating various types of metal objects, like sculptures, utensils, decorative and other useful objects, using only the hand tools and strictly following the traditional methods.

Jnanpravaha Mumbai

As we approach the end of our academic year on April 30th, 2023, there is much to mull over and plan for the new iterations beginning July 2023. The acceptance of 'hybrid' as the default mode has helped make our pedagogical choices both in terms of scholarship and content and reach a global audience. Fortunately, scholars have started travelling and are very keen to engage with a live audience – in fact, some gently refuse to conduct seminars and lectures virtually! We will, however, continue to offer and present all our lectures, seminars and courses in physical/hybrid and virtual formats.

We began July 2022 with an unusually large cohort of participants for the year-long course 'Indian Aesthetics' and were dismayed to have to close registrations both for the diploma and certificate segments, disappointing a large number who we hope will be able to participate this year beginning 22nd July. The course, as always, reflects current research and was augmented with seminars that cannot be covered by the course syllabi. One such seminar is titled 'Grafted Arts: Art Making and Taking in the Struggle of Western India, 1760-1910'.

Following our convention of addressing Yoga and Tantra in-depth once in three years, the next iteration commenced on 16th August and ended on 10th November 2022. This online course subtitled 'The Mind Meeting the Body in Transformation' is situated in the socio-religious order of the historical world even as it allows the speaking of the transcendental, esoteric and mystical dimensions of an array of yogic and tantric traditions. Due to overwhelming demand, we offered yet another freshly minted semester-long iteration of the Aesthetics, Criticism and Theory (ACT) course beginning 23rd September. While keeping intact the foundational threads which make it unique, the course concluded with an engaged look at the contemporary through new media practices such as social media. The last quarter witnessed several in-person seminars and lectures and a few virtual ones as well (in addition to our ongoing courses). The inner pages carry insightful accounts of all. We are grateful to Profs. Molly Aitken, Chaitanya Sambrani, Ebba Koch, Riyaz Latif, Pushkar Sohoni and the innumerable scholars of Indian Aesthetics (IA) and Aesthetics, Criticism & Theory (ACT) for sharing their current research and scholarship so magnanimously – we are enriched.

One of the tasks that we have set for ourselves is to relook at the rubric nomenclatures and make space for collaboratives and globalisms that spill out of neat silos. The recent cutting-edge scholarship is challenging 'Buddhist', 'Islamic', and 'Hindu' from their exceptionalism to embrace connections and show their essential pluralistic natures. The scholarly interest in Indian Ocean Trade is a case in point, where seemingly far-flung geographic areas and their visual cultures are proving to be very intimately connected, demanding a revision in their close reading.

Similarly, we are revising our privileging of the Western intellectual world of ideas and its theories which have traditionally provided the bedrock for the understanding of aesthetics, criticism, and their institutions, to include other marginalised but important points of view in an increasingly globalized world. The rich thoughts and offerings that have always existed in the Arabic, Persian, and Chinese worlds, for instance, as well as those of indigenous peoples everywhere, have to be retrieved and shared to give vital pedagogical alternatives. Our Indian Aesthetics course and the rubric of Indian Intellectual Traditions have been attempting to disseminate our treasures, especially visual, from within – but can we go a step further and see whether our aesthetic theories of emotion, hermeneutics and meaning can be understood as a knowledge system globally? These theories are in Classical Sanskrit – there is a whole extraordinary world in other languages such as Tamil awaiting wider discovery.

The new calendar will be informed of these concerns. Along with training our lens towards other searing issues of technology and its impact, museums and other art institutions, indigeneity, and artistic voices, we hope to break new ground by addressing fresh frontiers. So do look out for all our announcements!

The activities of JPM during the year were held under the following categories:

a. Yearlong courses:

Postgraduate Diploma in Indian Aesthetics (49 Students)

b. Semester-long courses:

Postgraduate Course in Aesthetics, Criticism & Theory - Thinking Through Constellations (48 Students)

Postgraduate Course in Yoga & Tantra – The Mind Meeting the Body in Transformation (17 Students)

c. Public lectures: 5 Physical/Hybrid and 5 Online

Views From the Black Mountain: The Rock-Cut Mahavihara at Kanheri/Krishnagiri by Dr. Pia Brancaccio (86 registered participants)

New Research on Physical Yoga | Findings from The Erc-Funded Hatha Yoga Project (2015-2020) and Current Research Projects Krishnagiri by Dr. James Mallinson (lead investigator), Dr. Jason Birch and Ms. Jacqueline Hargreaves (participating members) (87 registered participants)

The Religious Significance of Mughal Imperial Tombs: A Comparative Perspective by Dr. A. Azfar Moin (54 registered participants)

The Planetary King: Humayun Padshah: Inventor and Visionary on The Mughal Throne by **Dr. Ebba Koch** (51 registered participants)

Ornaments In Stone: Monuments of Sultanate Ahmadabad by **Dr. Pushkar Sohoni** and **Dr. Riyaz Latif** (153 registered participants)

Comparative Classics: On Greek and Indian Epic Poetry by **Dr. Phiroze Vasunia** | *Freud's Antiquity: Object, Idea, Desire* by **Dr. Miriam Leonard** (151 registered participants)

York Minster Centre of Excellence for Heritage Craft Skills and Estate Management by **Ms. Laura Cotter** and **Mr. Lee Godfrey** (87 registered participants)

Brown Britain: 'Indian' Art, Imperial Encounters & Diasporic Dreaming by **Dr. Zehra Jumabhoy** (113 registered participants)

Sharjah Biennial 15: "Thinking Historically in The Present": India at The Sharjah Biennial - Situating 12 Participating Artists. Introduction on the premise by **Ms. Shireen Gandhi**, Followed by presentations by **Anju Dodiya, Prajakta Potnis** and **Reena Kallat** (Artist present in Mumbai) (43 registered participants)

In The Mood: Exhibiting Udaipur's Paintings of Place by **Dr. Debra Diamond** and **Dr. Dipti Khera** (98 registered participants)

d. Seminars of 3-5 days: (Overall 366 Participants)

We were extremely fortunate to have internationally renowned scholars such as Dr. Holly Shaffer, Dr. Philipp Maas, Dr. Shaman Hatley, Dr. Richard Davis, Dr. Pol Vandeveld & Dr. Arun Iyer, Dr. Molly Emma Aitken and Dr. Chaitanya Sambrani who conducted seminars on subjects as varied as Grafted Arts: Art Making and Taking In The Struggle For Western India, 1760-1910, Yoga and Ayurveda In Ancient India, Shakta Tantra and The Great Goddess In Early Medieval India, Varieties Of Religious Experience, In Early India, Ethics, Aesthetics and The Historical Dimension Of Language - A Seminar Series On The Selected Writings Of Hans-Georg Gadamer, Surface, Depth, Bewilderment: Propositions For Thinking About The Feminine In The Paintings Of Mughal India, Multiple Modernisms: Europe, Asia and Beyond. We hope to continue this collaboration over the coming years with lectures and conferences involving intellectuals and artists.

e. New Endeavours

Introducing new semester-long courses on Technology and Museums.

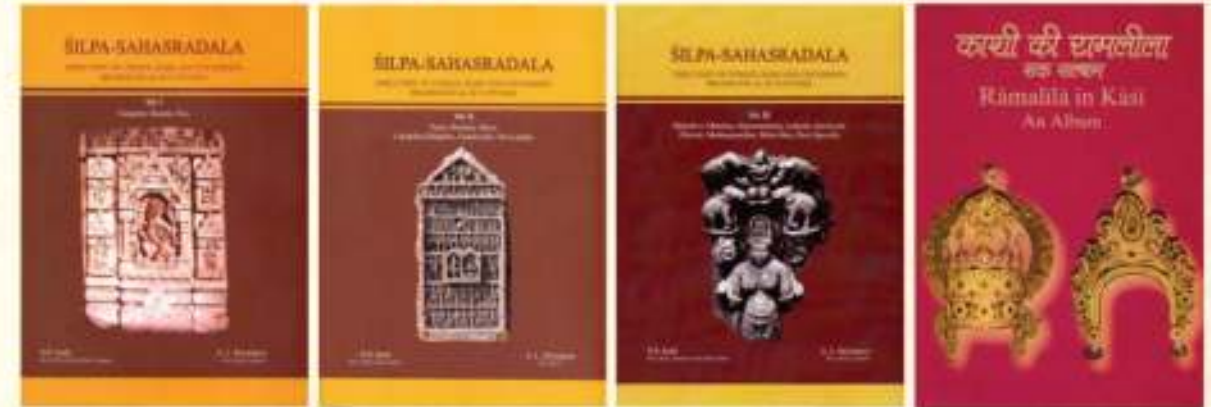


A Meeting of the Gods, attributed to Maharashtra, late 18th century, shrub and organic colors and gold on handmade paper, 30 x 42 in. Phadnis Family Collection

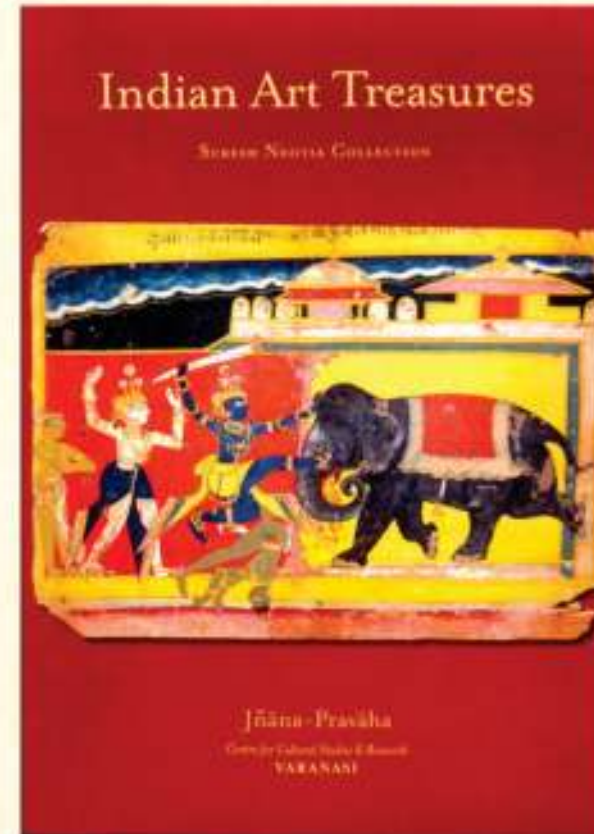


A Dancer Balances a Bottle on Her Head, Faizabad, ca. 1770. Watercolor and gold on paper. Chester Beatty Library, Dublin.

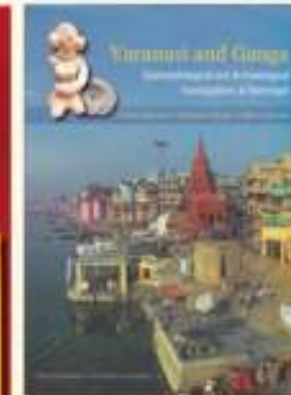
Important Publications



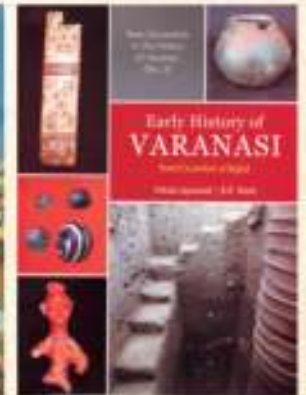
Śilpa-Sahasradala Vol. I (2012) *Śilpa-Sahasradala* Vol. II (2012) *Śilpa-Sahasradala* Vol. III (2016) *Rāmāliḷā in Kāśī* (2012)



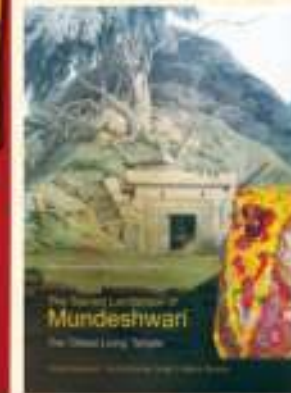
Indian Art Treasures (2006)



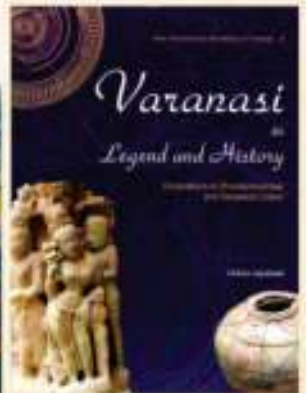
Varanasi and Ganga (2016)



Early History of Varanasi (2016)



The Sacred Landscape of Mundeshwari (2017)



Varanasi in Legend and History (2022)

Annual Publication : Jñāna-Pravāha Research Journal, Vols. 1-25
For details please visit our website : www.jnanpravaha.org