

EDITORIAL

Interruption is never intended. Interruptions occur as it is in the nature of flow. Without interruptions, there cannot be connections. This Journal was taking proper shape and igniting interest in holistic thinking and suddenly it was caught up in a lull. But, we are back with renewal and hope. New editorial team is extremely proficient. We have decided to fill up the gap with 'fusion' of issues. Thus, all the four issues have been combined in this volume. We hope to publish the regular quarterly issues from this year onward.

The current issue covers several disciplines. Professor K.K. Mandal has written a meticulous paper on *Elephants and Kingship: A Study of the Arthaśāstra*. He argues that the deployment of elephant was deeply embedded in Indian kingship. Elephants are large in size, and appear as a sign of military prowess of the king. The display of war elephants in the royal procession was their reflection as repertoire of Indian kingship. Elephant comes to be deeply embedded in Indian kingship in the later Vedic period c. 1000-500 BCE by the end of which the new culture of war had become universal in North India. By c. 500 BCE the new material and social situation led to the rapid development of such state organs as army and taxation system. No doubt possession of elephant gave an edge to the Magadhan monarchy. The invention of war elephant was in all likelihood an invention of kingship.

We have a paper on archaeological findings in Bihar. Dr. Anil Kumar of Viswa Bharati, Santiniketan's paper is on his recent finds of a Buddhist site at Krimila Adhithana, an early medieval religious-cum-administrative centre. The site is located in the area around Lakhisarai, a modern town and districts headquarter of Bihar. The author has argued about a possible Buddhist stupa at the site. Prof. Ren HuiLian and Ajay Krishna from the Northwest University, Xi'an, China have argued about the benefits of the OBOR is their paper "*ONE BELT ONE ROAD" Initiative of China and Indian Perspective*. The authors have argued that India and China has had more than two thousand years of civilizational tie-up which makes them unique in whole of human civilization. The formidable Himalaya has not stopped establishing a deeper cultural and humane relationship between these two countries and have mutually affected in many ways. China and India are countries as put by famous cultural ambassador between India and China Ji Xianlin as "*created by heaven and constructed by earth* (天造地设)", which wielded considerable amount of mutual influence not only in their mainland region but also in whole of Indo-China region. Most of the Southeast Asia has been the product of mingling of these two civilizations. India must seize this golden opportunity to contribute in the making of new Asia. We have scholars from Tribhuvan University, Nepal and University of Dhaka in Bangladesh contributing their

papers. Thus, the canvass of the current issue is pan-Asian.

We have some interesting papers from young scholars of Mewar University. There are contributors from Delhi University and Central university of Gujarat, from Tamil Nadu and from Himachal Pradesh. JNU scholar Lobzang Chosdup analyzes the interplay of religion and politics in Ladakh. He argues about the changing role of religion in politics, the emergence of confrontation between politicians and monks as well as change of LBA's (Ladakh Buddhist Association) role from politics to more religious and social work.

What Lobzang Chosdup writes about Ladakh is also evident in other parts of Afro-Asia. Interplay of religion and politics is building rising crescendo among the bulging youth population. The conflict of ideas can be resolved only through rigorous exercise in achieving fusion of perspectives. Critical rational discourse based upon observable facts or logical inference can be the proper tool. Academicians have this onerous duty to expand the field of inquiry and infuse the things and events with critical gaze. Intricate problems require simple solutions. Multidimensional approach always spring surprises with umbrella solutions. We have been persistent in appreciating the multidimensional approach towards learning and also expanding the horizons with each new issue of the journal.

The volume is truly multidisciplinary in nature and pan-Asian in expanse. We extend our gratitude to the Chairman of the Mewar University for providing all possible support to continue to publish the journal. When plethora of research journals are mushrooming, many of them finding space in the Beall's list of predatory journal, we have come a long way to promote and publish substantial research as also to encourage scholars from distant corners of the country to compete with the best in contributing their research. It is not the citation factor and other marketed criteria that makes a publication credible. It is the joint effort of the management, editorial team, passion of the scholars and the patience of the readers which make wisdom to bloom in the muddy academic water. May the constant support of scholars enrich the forthcoming issues further and the Journal of Indian Research grows into a banyan tree for scholars of all hue.

— Niraj Kumar
Honorary Editor