

## NEWS

### **Indian National Commission for History of Sciences**

The work for Compilation of History of Sciences in India was started at the Asiatic Society, Calcutta in 1960 under the supervision of History of Science Board with Dr AC Ukil, FNA, the past-President of the Academy, as Chairman. The programme was sponsored by the Indian National Science Academy, the then National Institute of Sciences in India (NISI) and the necessary fund was sanctioned by the Government of India. In 1964, a deputation from the Academy headed by Dr HJ Bhabha, FNA, met the then Education Minister, Mr MC Chagla to clarify the matter concerning the enlargement of the scope of History of Science Board and formation of a National Commission for the same purpose. As regards objectives of the National Commission, Professor DM Bose, FNA, the then Co-Chairman of the History of Science Board had recorded as follows:

‘While special importance was given to the writing of the history of sciences in India, it was also recognized that history of science should be the subject of continuous study which the Indian Universities should be invited to take up later. For encouraging such studies, the sponsoring body, the National Institute should receive from the Government of India annual grants to be disbursed by the National Commission for the Compilation of History of Sciences in India. The Commission would appoint whole-time Professors and Readers to conduct research as well as supervise the work of research scholars and technical assistants. By such means a cadre of science historians would be trained from which the universities might be able to recruit staff for their history of science departments.’ (Ref Indian Journal of History of Science, Preface p. i, 1966).

However, the Commission was set up in 1965 with 21 members from all over India consisting of scientists, historians, indologists and the President of the Academy as Chairman. The work of the Commission was also restricted to the supervision, compilation and publication of studies. A journal, Indian Journal of History of Science (bimonthly) was also set up in order to stimulate contributions from investigators of different discipline. In 1989, while assessing the progress report of the different research projects relating to ancient, medieval and modern periods in a workshop, the delegates emphasized that the Academy has done a laudable work in organization of research, systematic collection of sources and publication programme during the last 25 years. It was suggested that there is need for changing the name of the commission creating and extending scope for study of History of Science from international perspective. The workshop made a unanimous suggestions that the name of the ‘National Commission for the Compilation of History of Sciences in India’ may be modified to the ‘Indian National Commission for History of Science’ which was accepted by the Academy (wef August 4, 1989). In addition to other objects already

underlined under the programme, interpretation, critical evaluation of facts and publication of important materials were also emphasized.

### **Projects Approved/Completed by Indian National Commission for History of Science during the year 1990-91**

Thirty projects were approved by National Commission on History of Science during the period 1990-91. Seven projects were also completed during the same period.

#### *I. Ancient Period (10 Projects)*

Minerals and Metals in Ancient India upto 1200 A.D. by Prof. A.K. Biswas, Kanpur.

Study of Scientific Concepts in Brahmanical, Buddhist and Jaina Literature in Ancient India by Prof. S.N. Sen, Calcutta.

Scientific Information in the Inscriptions Inscribed in Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit Languages by Sri Sibdas Chaudhari, Calcutta.

A Critical Study of *Kāśyapa Saṃhita* (Vrddha Jivaka Tantra) by Prof. P.V. Tewari, Varanasi.

English Translation of the Cakradatta by Professor P.V. Sharma, Varanasi.

The *Prastāra Ratnāvali* of Muni Ratnachandra (English Translation with Notes) by Prof. L.C. Jain, Jabalpur.

Vrksayurveda of Parasara with English Translation and Notes by Sri N.N. Sircar, Calcutta.

Preparation of Historical Atlas of India — Śaka Kuṣāna Age by Prof. B.N. Mukherjee, Calcutta.

Astronomical Parameters by Dr: George Abraham, Madras.

Restoration of *Amṛta Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya Guhycpadeśa Tantra* — A lost Ayurvedic Text in Sanskrit by Vaidya Bhagwan Das, New Delhi.

#### *II Medieval Period (11 projects)*

Science Atlas by Prof. A. Rahmau, New Delhi

Edition and Translation of *Sadratnamālā* by Professor M.S. Rangachari, Madras.

A Critical Study of *Yogarātnākara* by Dr. Nirmal Saxena, Izzatnagar, Bariely.

**Critical and Scientific English Commentary of *Bhāva Prakāśa* by Dr. L.V. Guru, Varanasi.**

**Ali-bin-Rabban at Tabari — 9th Century Arab Physician on Ayurveda by Professor M.S. Khan, Calcutta.**

**A Critical Study of Sanskrit Alchemical Text Rasopaniṣad by Dr. (Mrs.) V.J. Despande, Pune.**

**Evolution of Kashmir Shawl Craft and Design — based on Persian Sources by K.N. Pandita, Srinagar.**

**Unani Medicine in India in the Pre-Mughal Period by Dr. R.L. Verma, Delhi**

**A Critical Study of Zij-i-Muhammad Shahi by Professor S.M.R. Ansari and Sri S.A. Khan Ghorī, Aligarh.**

**Temple of Orissa — A Historical Documentation of its Structural Engineering Aspects by Dr. S.K. Misra, Bhubaneswar.**

**Tantrasaṅgraha of Nilkantha Somayaji (English Translation) by Sri S. Hariharan, Bangalore.**

### *III Modern Period (9 Projects)*

**On the Development of Physics, Astrophysics, Astronomy and Geophysics during the period (1800-1950) by Professor S.N. Sen and Professor Santimony Chatterjee, Calcutta.**

**History of Botany in India Modern Times Professor B.M. Johri F.N.A., Delhi**

**Calendar Reform in India in Modern Times by Commodore S.K. Chatterjee, New Delhi**

**Investigation of Commentary Records in Indian Traditions by Dr. S.D. Sharma, Patiala.**

**Role of Intellectual and Scientific Societies in the 19th Century Bengal by Sri Durga Prasad Bhattacharya, Calcutta.**

**Man's quest for Knowledge of Materials — A decisive factor in development of Western Scientific Thought — An understanding of Indian question by Mrs. T. Ray, NISTADS, New Delhi.**

**A Biographical Dictionary of Scientists in India — Part I by Dr. (Mrs.) A. Vasantha, Delhi.**

Food Technology Development in India (1800-1947) by Dr. K.T. Achaya. Bangalore.

A History of Past Major Cyclones in India by Sri A.K. Sen Sarma, Madras.

#### *IV Projects Completed*

A critical study of Laghumānasa of Manjula by Prof. K.S. Shukla Lucknow.

Indian Food Materials and Practices — A Historical and Scientific Evaluation by Dr. K.T. Achaya, Bangalore.

A Source Book on Chemical Practices with English Translation and Notes by Dr. B.V. Subbarayappa, Bangalore.

Development of Mathematical Sciences in India in the 20th Century by Prof. J.N. Kapur, Delhi.

History of Optical Glass Industry and Optical Technology in India by Dr. A.K. Saxena and Mrs. A. Vageswari, Bangalore.

Development of Mineral Industry in India (1850-1980) by Prof. S. Vardarajan, Delhi.

Research Studies on History of Tanning in India by Dr. R. Selvarangan, Madras.

#### **New Publications**

Interaction between Indian and Central Asian Science & Technology in Medieval Times, 2 Volumes, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, 1990

Two volumes on Interaction between Indian and Central Asian Science & Technology in Medieval Times have been published by the Indian National Commission for History of Science under Indo-Soviet joint collaborative programme. The idea of joint volumes dealing with contributions from established experts from both the countries were noted in a joint meeting and the present volumes are the outcome of this collaboration. The Volume I contains contributions from established experts on history of science on General Ideas and Methodology, Astronomy, Mathematics and Physical concepts and Volume II on Medicine, Technology, Arts & Crafts, Architecture and Music during medieval times. Out of these experts twenty-eight are from India and thirty-seven are from Soviet-Russia. A few papers published before have also been reprinted which are expected to throw some additional light. The study on the whole have revealed the importance of Indian Central Asian manuscripts, their methodology and contents. New insight will also be available on various concepts under each sub-heading. The study would reveal many a linkages suggesting a synthetic tradition continuously developing and evolving as a result of various interactions. The study also shows that the synthesis of creative endeavour of scholars of India and

Central Asia made a tremendous impact in the world civilization. The volumes also give a genesis of collaboration between the INSA and USSR Academy of Sciences. The volumes are supported with plates, maps, illustrations and tables. The volumewise details are given below:

### **Volume I**

#### *General Ideas & Methodology*

**From the History of Classifying of Sciences in Central Asia, about Abū Abdallāh al-Khwārizmi's Work 'Keys of the Sciences' — M.M. Khairullayev and R.M. Bahadırov**

**Abū'l-Hasan Baihāqis Tatimmat şivān al-ḥikma — A Source in the History of Central Asian Culture — B. Vahabova**

**A Conceptual Framework of History of Science in India — A. Rahman**

**Maḥmūd ibn Walī and his Encyclopaedic Work — B. A. Ahmedov Bīrūni and Bābar on India — S. Azimjanoa**

**Bīrūnī and his Study of Ancient Indian Classics — A. Irisov**

**The works of Central Asian Scientists on Natural Sciences in 16-19th Centuries — A.B. Vildanova**

**Al-Birūnī and Brahmagupta — Bina Chatterjee**

#### *Astronomy*

**The Astronomical Endeavours of Jai Singh — Virendra Nath Sharma**

**Precession Theory in Mediaeval Indian and Early Islamic Astronomy — G. Ye. Kurtik**

**The Astrolable — A Case for Transmission of Technique of an Astronomical Instrument in Meddiaeval India — S. N. Sen**

**Al-Khwārizmi and Indian Science — B. A. Rosenfeld**

**On the Role of Al-Khwārizmi's Zij in the History of Astronomy — M.M. Rozhanskaya**

**A Central Asian Astronomer of the 9th Century from Merv — P.G. Bulgakov**

**A Central Asian Astronomical Treatise of the 11th Century — R.P. Djalilova**

**Scientific Contacts with special reference to Mathematics and Astronomy of Central**

Asia and India during 9-15th Centuries — S. Kh. Sirazhdinov, G.P. Matvieskaya & A. Ahmedov

Interrelation between Indian and Central Asian Scholars in Mathematics and Astronomy in Middle Ages — A.I. Volodarsky

Muhammad Ibn Mūsā al-Khwārizmi as a Thinker and Scientist of Encyclopaedic Learning — M.M. Khairullayev

### *Mathematics*

Interaction between India and Central Asia in Euclidean Geometry — Wazir Hasan Abdi

On the History of Spherical Law of Cosines — N. Hairetdinova

Certain Aspects of Trigonometry in India and Central Asia — R.C. Gupta

From the History of the Question of Al-Khwārizmi's Algebra — G.P. Matviyevskaya

Magic Square in Indian Mathematics — Kripa Shankar Shukla

Indeterminate Quadratic Equation in Indian and Central Asian Context — P. K. Majumdar

Introduction of Arabic and Persian Mathematics into Sanskrit Literature — Bibhutibhusan Datta

Indian Arithmetic in Central Asia — A.K. Bag

Binomial and Multinomial Theorems in India and Central Asia — Parmanand Singh

### *Physical Concepts*

Al-Bīrūnī and the Theory of Tides — N.K. Pannikar and T. M. Srinivasan

Four Propositions of Al-Bīrūnī on Optics in Jām-ī-Bahādur Khāni-Syed Aftab Husain Rizvi

Al-Bīrūnī and Hindu Speculation on Gravitation — Sourin Roy

## **Volume II**

### *Medicine*

Development of Pharmacology and Toxicology in the Medicine of India and Middle Asia (up to the tenth Century A.D.) — P.P. Denisenko

Doctor's Ethics in Ancient East Written Classics and in the Works of Middle Age Medical Scientists — Yu. N. Nuraliev

Exchanges between India and Central Asia in the field of Medicine specially during the Mughal Period — Hakim Abdul Hameed

Interaction between India and Central Asia in the field of Medicine — P.V. Sharma

Central Asian Doctors of Ibn Sinā Epoch — U. L. Karimov

General Principles for the treatment of Cardiac Diseases in the *Qānūn* of Ibn Sinā — M.S. Khan

Problems of Dietology, Gastrocenterology and Hepatology in Ibn Sinā's *Canon* of Medicine — H.N. Mansurov

Al-Bīrūnī on the Science of Medicine — R.L. Verma

Ismāil Jurjānī: An Outstanding Khwārazm Scientist — Physician of the 13th Century — A.A. Abdullayev

### *Technology, Arts & Crafts*

Techno-cultural Contacts between India and Central Asia during the Protohistoric and early Historic Periods — S.R. Rao

Corrective Correlations of Metallic Impurities Content owing to Time Lapse relating to Copper Coins of Kushana Rulers — S.V. Levushkina and A.A. Zhivetin

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Pictorial and Decorative Paintings in Central Asia and India based on the Data of *Maṭla'ul-'Ulūm wa Majha'ul-Fūnūn* — N.A. Avedova

Technique of Indian Painting and its Continuity in Central Asia — S.K. Andhare

The Iconography and Technique representing an Indian Art Motif in the territory of Soviet Central Asia during the early Mediaeval Age — B.N. Mukherjee

**Ancient India and Pre-Muslim Central Asia — Connections and Parallels in Mythology and Art — L.I. Rempel**

**Transmission of Technology of Arts and Crafts between India and Central Asia during the Mediaeval Period: Some Aspects — M.K. Pal**

**Central Asia and India — Contacts in Art — Krishna Deva**

**Kamāladdin Bihzād and the 16th Century Indian Miniature — Painters — A. Madraimov**

**Indian Illuminated Manuscripts in the Collections of the Tajik SSR Academy of Sciences: Their Traditions and Adoptions — L. Dodkhudoeva**

**The *Jāmi' al-Tawārikh* Manuscript in the Asiatic Society, Calcutta — Ashok Kumar Das**

### ***Architecture***

**Some Architectural Aspects of the Ulugh Beg Observatory — G.A. Pugachenkova**

**Architecture of India and Central Asia — Research Comparison — V.L. Voronina**

**Originality of Indo-Muslim Architecture — S. Tyulyaiev**

***Sabz-Burj* — An Architectural Representative of Central Asia in Delhi — M.C. Joshi**

**From the Indian Stūpa to the Mangolian Suburgan — V. N. Tkachev**

### ***Music***

**Musical Cultures of India and Central Asia: On the Problem of Historical Community of Theory and Practice — T.S. Vyzgo and A.B. Jumaey**

**Indian Rehta in Creative Works of Musicians of Central Asia — Dilbar Rashidova**



**FORM IV**  
(See Rule 8)

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I, Dr. O.N. Kaul hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Sd/-  
O.N. Kaul  
Signature of Publisher

