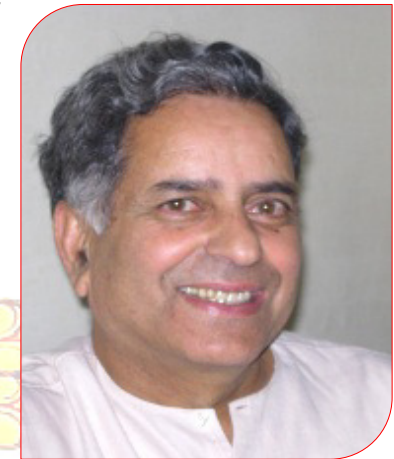


Nurturing Traditions

An International Refereed Journal on Himalay

Editorial

In the beginning, I take the opportunity for extending my deep gratitude to the umpteen well-wisher of the Himalay, for it is because of their inspiration and encouragement that the Kalp Foundation has undertaken the task of bring out an exclusive half-yearly journal on the Himalay, covering all its aspects. For, the Himalay as a spiritual concept and in its physical form has commanded universal awe, wonder and reverence through all ages. People in all ages have been feeling gravitated towards it, some on pilgrimage, many seeking solace and refuge and many others for research and adventuring, yet the Himalay stands stoically as dauntless as ever, calm and poised. It conjures up a vision of the vast Himalayan mountainscape, with its snow-crested lofty peaks, verdant mountain slopes, cascading streams and the sun-bathed glens and valleys inhabited by the people of innumerable ethnicities. This mountainous region has also been one of the most active and vibrant rendezvous for the races and cultures since the time immemorial. Generation after generation and caravan after caravan, hordes of people, belonging to the diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds, different religious beliefs and varying art-traditions have been pouring into the Himalayan amphitheatre from all directions in search of congenial habitats and greener pastures. The plethora of varied myths and legends has added even a further dimension to its glory, making it appear far taller to its physical dimension. However, the over-ambitious Man is incessantly nibbling at its limbs, threatening its identity, unmindful of the disastrous consequences. We hope that this journal shall contribute its bit to reverse that trend.



Standing sentinel over the subcontinent, the formidable Himalayan mountain system has always offered an insurmountable resistance even to the most venturesome invader and thwarted any attempt on invasion. No one, thus, has ever attempted a wholesale conquest of this region. However, on the other hand, its sequestered and salubrious pasturable mountain slopes and spurs and the fertile valleys and glens have offered most congenial habitats to the generations of people, who found a home here away from the places of their origin. Those people, when rehabilitated here, organised themselves in various village-level community setups under their own gods, which eventually

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developed into the *gram-rajyas* and *van-rajyas*, giving rise to various type of administrative systems, which have generally been defined as the theocratic oligarchy.

Thus, there exist endless research possibilities in this region. Therefore, this refereed research aims at bringing out well-researched and exclusive articles and papers on any of the topics related to the Himalayan region. In fact, there had been a dire need for such journal. Many efforts were made in the past in this regard, but due to various factors, that could not be possible. This journal is a humble effort to fill that vacuity.

The scope of this Journal is very vast. One can contribute on any theme and from anywhere in the world, but that should be related to the Himalayan region so that it may encourage healthy apolitical discourse on various aspect of this region.

We have constituted an expert editorial board of the professors of various Indian and foreign universities to screen the papers before those are finalized for publication. We hope that this humble effort shall receive the support of the academic world.

I extend my appeal to the lovers of Himalay, the scholars and researchers to contribute their articles and papers to *Nurturing Traditions* so that we may be able to serve the cause in a befitting manner.

O. C. Handa
Chief Editor

