Akshardhara Research Journal
Single Blind Peer-Reviewed & Refereed International Research Journal
E ISSN -3048-8095 / SJIF Impact- 5.16 / October 2026/ Special Issue 05 Volume I

A Two-Day Interdisciplinary National Conference on

Religion and Trade Routes in India

Pathways of Cultural Exchange through History

Organised by

Department of History
S. P. Mandali's
Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Mumbai

Sponsored by

Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi

Editor-in-Chief
Prof. Dr. Anushree Lokur
(Principal)

Editor
Dr. Pradeep Waghmare
(Convenor)

Advisory Committee

Prof. Dr. Kishor Gaikwad
Dr. Vinod Kumar
Dr. Sanghamitra Rai Verman
Dr. Nitin Kumar
Mr. Nilesh Jadhav
Dr. Laxmi Salvi

Lekhai Prakashaon
Plot. 42 Akshara Publication Gokuldham Residency
Wanjola Road Bhusawal Dist.Jalgaon [M. S.] India 425201

©Copyright 2025 *ADRJ*. All Rights Reserved

Akshardhara Research Journal
Single Blind Peer-Reviewed & Refereed International Research Journal
E ISSN -3048-8095 / SJIF Impact- 5.16 / October 2026/ Special Issue 05 Volume I

-: Chief Editor:–

Dr. Priyanka J. Mahajan
Co-1110/6 Mamaji Talkies area Juna Satara Bhusawal,
Dist. Jalgaom (M.S) India Pincode 425201
Website: https://admrj.com
E-mail : admrj0404@gmail.com

-: Executive Editor:–

Dr. Girish S. Koli
42 Akshara Publication Gokuldham Prerananagar Wanjola
Road Near Star Lone Bhusawal Dist. Jalgaon
[M. S.] India 425201
Mobile No: 9421682612

Member Of Editorial Board

DR. E.G. WAJIRA GUNASENA
Designation : Senior Lecturer (I) In Hindi
Address : Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Nugegoda, 10250, Sri Lanka
Mobile : 0094 112758315
Email Id : wajiragunasena@sjp.ac.lk

DR. VIVEK MANI TRIPATHI
Designation : Assistant Professor
Address : Faculty of Afro – Asian Languages and Cultures, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China.
Mobile : 86-18666279640
Email Id : 2294414833@qq.com

DR. GIRISH KUMAR PAINOLI
Designation : Professor
Address : School of Commerce and Management, Aurora Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, India Pin Code:500098
Mobile : 07674938785
Email Id : girishkumar@aurora.edu.in

Dr.VIVEK ARUN JOSHI
Designation: Assistant Professor
Address: TES's Institute of Management and Career Development, Bhusawal, Dist. Jalgaon [M. S.] India Pin Code: 425201
Mobile: +91 9881716287
Email Id : admin@ssgbhindimv.com

The journal follows a Single Blind Peer Review Policy. After plagiarism check and methodology verification, papers are sent to expert reviewers. The identity of the researcher is kept confidential. Based on reviewers' recommendations, the Editorial Board takes the final decision regarding publication

ADRJ Disclaimer :

For the purity and authenticity of any statement or view expressed in any article. The concerned writers (of that article) will be held responsible. At any cost member of ADRJ editorial Board will not be responsible for anyconsequences arising from the exercise of Information contained in it. ***(Applicable in Bhusawal Dist Jalgaon jurisdiction)***

Akshardhara Research Journal
Single Blind Peer-Reviewed & Refereed International Research Journal
E ISSN -3048-8095 / SJIF Impact- 5.16 / October 2026/ Special Issue 05 Volume I

Index

Sr.No.	Title of the Paper	Author's Name	Pg.No.
1	Oral Legacy: Indian Culture and Tradition through Folklore Journal	**Prof. Dr. Neeta M. Khandpekar**	**06**
2	Evolving Trade Networks and Cultural Interactions: A Comparative and Analytical Study of India from the Ancient to the Early Modern Period	**Bhargav R Moundekar** **Aastha Girish Kashid**	**12**
3	Church Institutions as Inland Routes of Cultural Exchange in Colonial Ahmednagar District	**Ajinkya Sanjay Khandizod**	**20**
4	Religion, Institutions, Ecology, and Economic Growth: A Study of Sacred Groves (Kāvu) in Kerala	**Dr. Radha Kumar**	**24**
5	Religious Diversity, Spatial Mobility, and Economic Life in Medieval India: An Indic Perspective on Cultural Exchange	**Dr. Aparna Kulkarni**	**30**
6	Jain Food and Food Spaces	**Prof. Dr. Hemali Sanghavi**	**35**
7	At the Crossroads of Civilizations: A Comparative Study of the Three Ancient Trade Routes of North-East India	**Dr. Nandita Moitra**	**38**
8	Commodities and Creed: The Ghat-Konkan Corridor and Religious Syncretism	**Rashmi S. Pawar**	**44**
9	History of Colonial Opium Trade and Oceanic Imagination: Amitav Ghosh's Sea of Poppies	**Dr. Vrushali V. Bhosale Kaneri**	**50**
10	प्रकल्प सागरमाला' या महत्त्वाकांक्षी प्रकल्पाचा भूराजकीय आणि आर्थिक दृष्टिकोनातून केलेला अभ्यास: ऐतिहासिक सागरी मार्गांच्या पुनरुज्जीवनाचा प्रयत्न	**कौस्तुभ जोशी**	**56**
11	Faith, Finance and Fabric of Society: The Religious, Economic and Cultural Worlds of the Haribhakti Pedhi in 19th Century Western India	**Neha Patil**	**60**
12	The Religiosity of Ancient Indian Merchant Communities: A Comparative Study of Berenike and Socotra (c. 1st century BCE–3rd century CE)	**Shambhavi Sharma**	**66**
13	Sacred Economies along Trade Routes: The Brihadeshwara Temple at Thanjavur in Early Medieval India	**Pratishtha Sharma**	**74**
14	Tracing an Ancient Trade Route between Vaishali and Rampurva in Bihar: An Archaeological Perspective	**Saumya**	**82**
15	Brahmins who willing to cross the sea – Pāśupatas gurus as cultural agents in Early Southeast Asian Indianised states	**Atiphat Paibool**	**88**
16	Colonial Bombay's (Mumbai) crossroads: Trade, Religion and Lifestyle	**Hemangini Girish Bali** **Dr. Meherjyoti Sangle**	**93**
17	Trade and Religious Patronage in Early India (1st Century BCE – 3rd Century CE)	**Gautami Shankar**	**98**
18	Hands That Traveled: Labor and Cultural Intersections	**Neha Vishwakarma**	**104**
19	India and Indonesia Relations: Traces of the Glory of Buddhism at Borobudur Temple in the 8th Century AD	**Arfan Habibi**	**110**
20	Mapping the French controlled Spice Trade in Mahe and Karaikal	**Nilesh S. Patnaha**	**114**
21	Ter and Its Multireligious Past: Archaeological and Historical Perspectives from the Ancient to Early Medieval Period	**Sampada Prerana** **Pramod Ghatkar** **Rutuja Milind Hampe**	**118**
22	Paithan as a Nodal Centre in the Deccan: Trade, Routes and Continuity	**Durga Vishwanath Harshada Kalsekar** **Disha Rohit Shilpa Agate**	**124**

Sr.No.	Title of the Paper	Author's Name	Pg.No.
23	The Examination of Nagapattinam as a Gateway for the Exchange of Buddhist Thought across the South East Asian Landscape	**Malhar Garud**	**130**
24	Trade Routes and Sacred Landscapes: Processes of Religio-Cultural Assimilation	**Manas Jitendra Vaidya**	**140**
25	Lothal as a Port Town: Trade Networks and Cultural Exchange in the Harappan Civilisation	**Shubham Pandurang Raut**	**147**
26	Intaglio Gems: Tracing Cultural Identity in Ancient India through Trade	**Maisha Kotyan**	**152**
27	The Colonial Marketplace: Renegotiating Trade and Religion	**Siddhi Deshmukh**	**159**
28	Trade Routes, Religion and Cultural Exchange in Mumbai: Through Ancient Sculptural Art and Architecture	**Michael Milagris Keer**	**164**

Akshardhara Research Journal
Single Blind Peer-Reviewed & Refereed International Research Journal
E ISSN -3048-8095 / SJIF Impact- 5.16 / October 2026/ Special Issue 05 Volume I

Editorial Note

The history of India has been shaped not only by political and territorial transformations but also by the movement of people, ideas, beliefs, commodities and cultural practices across regions. Trade routes played a crucial role in these processes, serving not merely as channels of commerce but as pathways through which religions, philosophies, languages, artistic traditions and social practices travelled and interacted.

The Special Issue of the Akshardhara Research Journal, titled *"Religion and Trade Routes in India: Pathways of Cultural Exchange through History"*, emerges from the Interdisciplinary National Conference organised by the Department of History, Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Mumbai, on 13–14 February 2026, with the sponsorship of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi. The conference brought together scholars from diverse disciplines to explore the historical intersections of religion, trade, mobility and cultural exchange.

I pre-eminently thank the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi for granting financial assistance for the conference. I particularly wish to thank Dr. Nitin Kumar, Dr. Vinod Kumar and Mr. Nilesh Jadhav from ICHR for their support and guidance.

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Anushree Lokur, Principal, Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, for her constant support and encouragement.

I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Kishor Gaikwad, Head of the Department of History and Ethnography, Mizoram Central University for his encouragement and valuable suggestions for the volume.

I extend my appreciation to the contributors whose research forms the foundation of this Special Issue, as well as to the reviewers and members of the editorial board for their scholarly engagement and constructive observations.

I am particularly grateful to my colleagues in the Department of History for their cooperation and support throughout the conference and publication process.

I also express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Priyanka J. Mahajan of Lekhai Prakashan, Bhusawal Dist. Jalgaon, Maharashtra, for his valuable assistance in bringing this Special Issue to publication within a short period.

It is hoped that this Special Issue will contribute to the study of India's connected histories and encourage further research into the intersections of religion, trade, mobility and cultural exchange.

Dr. Pradeep Waghmare
Editor