

# INDIA IN EARLY CENTRAL ASIA

A Survey of Indian Scripts, Languages and Literatures  
in Central Asia of the First Millennium A.D.

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Central Asia had been in the past the epicentre of several movements of peoples, which created great impacts on the history of the world. Situated at the crossroad of the communication in the Orient, it received and disseminated various cultures (spiritual and material). India was one of the principal countries which influenced early Central Asia in different fields of human activities. Indian traits in religious movements and artistic activities in early Central Asia have been studied in depth. But there is no up-to-date account of the presence of Indian scripts, languages and literatures in the same territory during the first millennium A.D. The present monograph fulfils this need.

The monograph is divided into four chapters (I. Introduction; II. Indian Scripts, Languages and Literatures in Early Central Asia; III. Kharoshṭī Inscriptions of the Kingdom of Shan-shan; and IV. Epilogue) and six appendices (I. The Date of the Introduction of Buddhism in Central Asia; II. A "Mixed" Script of Central Asia and the Indian Borderlands; III. 'Wkw Kswys'n = Ok' Kūsān; IV. The Chashtana Legend in Central Asia; V. Shan-shan and the Kushāna Empire; and VI. A List of Dates in the Kharoshṭī Inscriptions of Shan-shan). Informative maps and numerous reproductions of interesting inscriptions and manuscripts embellish the volume. The text and plates have made the monograph a significant addition to the existing literature on the subject.