

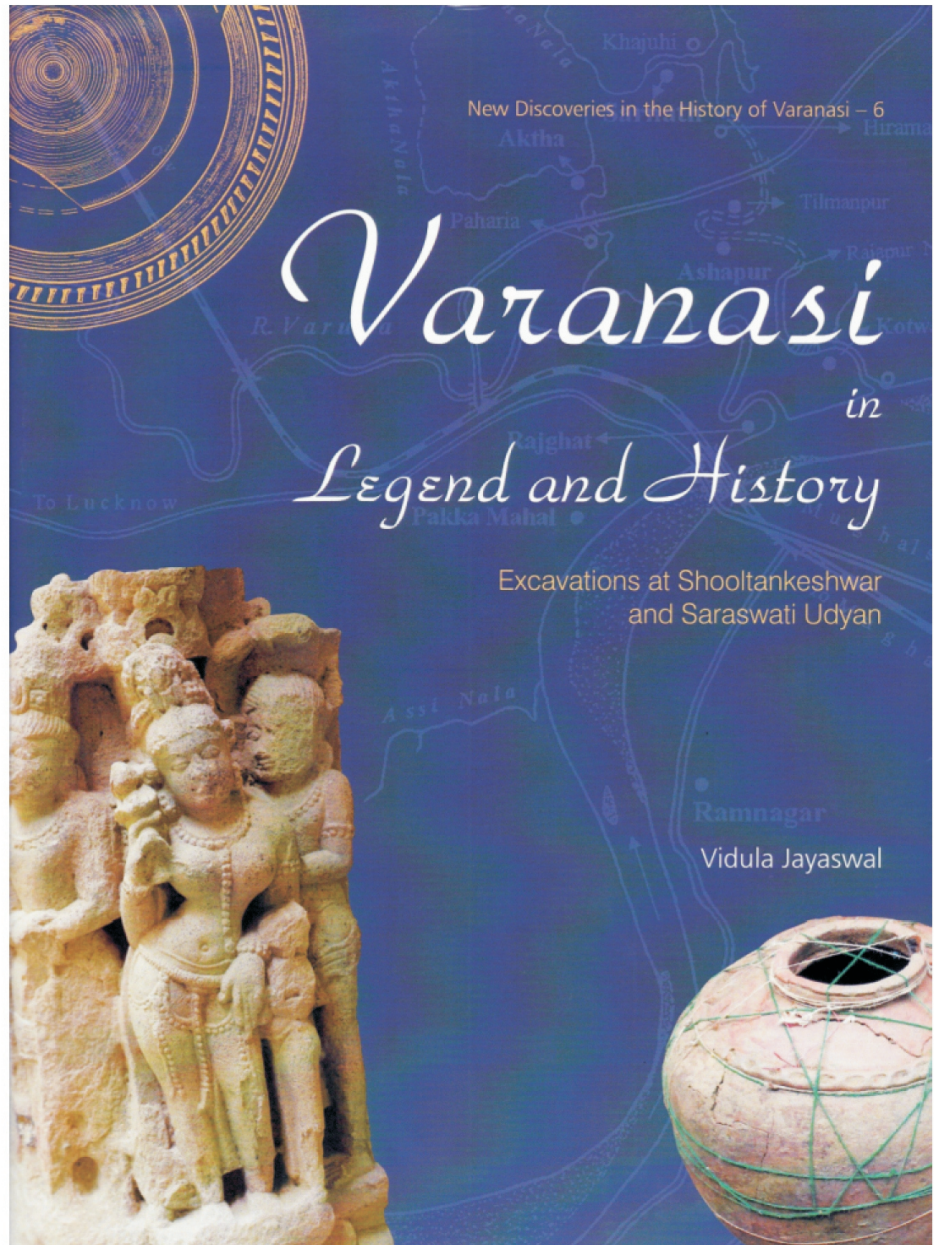


Varanasi in Legend and History, authored by Prof. Vidula Jayaswal, Fellow, Prof. R.C. Sharma Chair for Art & Archaeology, Jñāna-Pravāha, is a fresh addition to the series, *New Discoveries in the History of Varanasi*, beyond the recording of archaeological findings at Shooltankeshwar and *Avimukta-kshetra* (Kashi-Vishwanath area). Having a special place in the Shaiva mythology of Varanasi, the material findings of these sites add much to the socio-religious history of the place. This volume presents an in-depth scientific analysis of numerous tangible and intangible facets of an ancient living city like Varanasi.

The findings from the excavations at Shooltankeshwar and Saraswati Udyan form a part of the long-drawn archaeological project to study the history of Varanasi. Incidentally, the twin sites of Saraswati Udyan and Shool-

tankeshwar also represent the nucleus and periphery of the Shaiva landscape of Kashi. The modern Kashi-Vishwanath temple (*Pukka Mahal*), in the heart of the city, falls within the *Avimukta-kshetra*, the abode of Shiva and his consort Parvati. Shooltankeshwar is reputed in mythology for witnessing the event when Shiva held the river Ganga on his trident before she was to enter into the city. Archaeological findings from these two sites are also significant for scientific evaluation of the antiquity and genesis of such myths.

These two sites outline the lateral as well as linear historical growth of the settlement pattern of *Kashi-kshetra*. This book, besides providing archaeological data, presents some of the classic lithic compositions recovered at Saraswati Udyan. The legends of *Ganga-avatarana* (descent of Ganga) and *Avimuktेशwar* (the resort of Shiva-Parvati) have been evaluated in the light of archaeological findings. The inferences, thus drawn, are significant for the scholars involved in the study of Indian historical and cultural studies.



Workshop on Research Methodologies Archaeology & Cultural Studies : 16th-19th November 2021

A workshop on Cultural Landscape of Kalinjara was conceptualized by Prof. Vidula Jayaswal, Fellow, Prof. R.C. Sharma Chair for Art & Archaeology, Jñāna-Pravāha. Resource Persons were Prof. Arvind Kumar Singh, Dr. Rajendra Yadav and Dr. Subhash Chandra Yadav.

