

## **Editorial Introduction**

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Chitrolekha was conceived as an online platform dedicated especially to documenting cultural heritage of Bengal. In the year 2011 we published a Special Issue on the Arts and Crafts of Bankura and in the year 2012 we published another Special Issue on the Temples of Bengal. We received some valuable contributions from the scholars, and the readers too responded warmly to our humble initiatives. Scholarly recognition of the magazine too followed and we entered into an agreement with EBSCO for wider publicity and access through their special services.

The Special Issue on Dandabhukti was planned as an independent scholarly initiative to explore the socio-cultural heritage of an ancient kingdom which culminated in the creation of a Buddhist Mahavihar at Moghalmari. This issue tries to locate the ancient janapada Dandabhukti at and around modern-day Dantan, Paschim Medinipur and seeks to discuss various aspects of the Moghalmari Buddhist Monastery (Sri Vandak Mahabihar) and other historical sites around Moghalmari like Kakrajit, the Raibania Fort of Orissa, Satdeulia of Dantan, Kurumbera Fort, the ponds like Sarashanka, Bidyadhar, Dharmasagar—all of which at some points of time functioned through a lively interconnected cultural and economic networks.

The authors and the editors have tried their best with their scholarly contributions to do justice to the vast heritage of Dandabhukti. We hope the issue will get positive critical attention of the scholarly community.