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2: History of Science, Philosophy and Culture in Indian Civilization - Tribal Religions (Volume VII, Part 7) (History of Science, Philosophy Culture in Indian Civilization)

S. Shyamkishore Singh

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Pages: 467 General Editor: D. P. Chattopadhyaya About the Book The volumes of the Project on the History of Science, Philosophy and Culture in Indian Civilization aim at discovering the main aspects of Indias heritage and present. Them in an interrelated way. In spite of their unitary look, these volumes recognize the difference between the areas of material civilization and those of ideational culture. The project is not being executed by a single group of thinkers and writers who are methodologically uniform or ideologically identical in their commitments. The Project is marked by what may be called methodological pluralism. In spite of its primarily historical character, this project, both

in its conceptualization and execution, has been shaped by scholars drawn from different disciplines. It is for the first time that an endeavour of such a unique and comprehensive character has been undertaken to study critically a major world civilization. This volume comprises twenty five papers on the traditional religious beliefs and ritualistic practices of various tribes of India, more particularly the tribes of North-Eastern India. Although tribal population constitutes eight per cent of the total population of India, many Indians are ignorant of the tribal socio-cultural life and belief systems. Most of the tribes are still living in isolation from the Indian mainstream without much improvement in their socio-economic condition even after six decades of India becoming an independent republic. Moreover, the tribes are facing serious problems challenging their survival and cultural identity due to exploitation by the financially and politically privileged among the non-tribal. Their indigenous religious faiths and practices have also been threatened by interference from some other communities, especially by the activities of the preachers and missionaries of other re