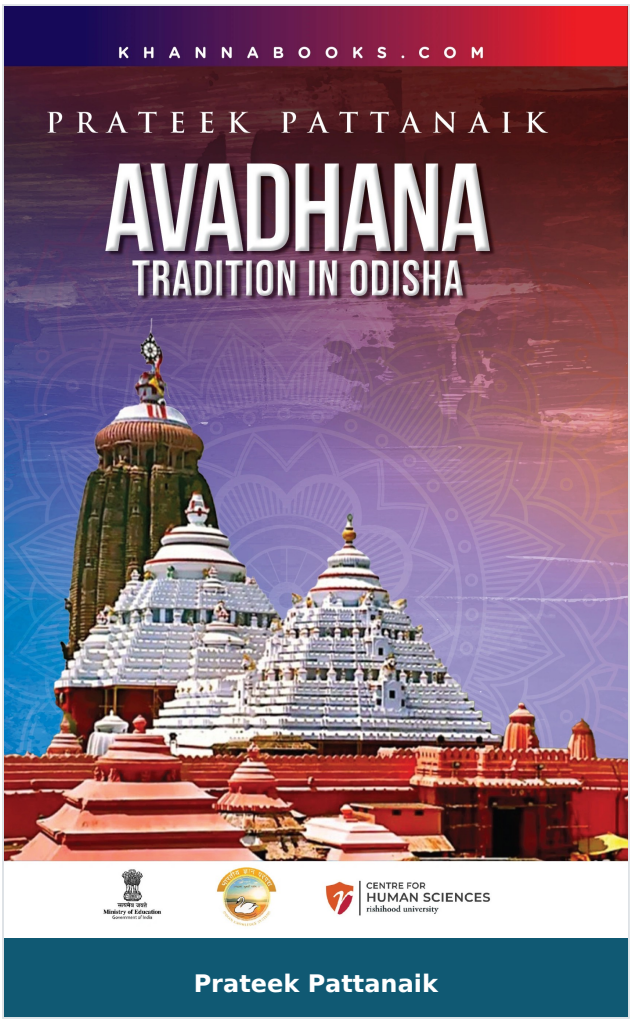

Avadhana (Tradition in Odisha)

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In the vibrant history of India's cultural and intellectual heritage, the tradition of Avadhana in Odisha stands as a lesser-explored yet profoundly rich chapter. Rooted in simultaneous handling across subjects and an intensive depth of knowledge, Odisha's Avadhana tradition is a unique amalgamation of intellectual prowess and cultural nuances. This book, titled “Avadhana Tradition in Odisha” endeavors to unravel the historical, cultural, and individual dimensions of this exceptional practice. While Avadhana is celebrated across the Indian subcontinent, the Odisha tradition distinguishes itself through its distinct categories of Avadhana, each demanding a unique level of expertise. The rare 100 Abadhana, alongside the more common 8, 10, 12, and 18 Abadhanas, forms a compelling aspect of Odisha’s Avadhana landscape. Furthermore, the book seeks to shed light on extraordinary memorizers called Srutidhara-s who epitomize the intellectual acumen embedded in this tradition. Eminent Avadhanis of Odisha, such as Upendra Bhanja and Kabibhusana Gopinatha Patra, have played pivotal roles in preserving and advancing this cultural gem. Through meticulous examination, the book will showcase the finer classifications within Sangitavadhana, revealing how poetry, mathematics, games, and concentration converge in a harmonious symphony. The book’s rationale extends beyond mere documentation. It aims to explore the meticulous examination process, the rigorous tests in each subject, and the unique role of Mukti Mandapa pandits as high supervisors, offering readers a comprehensive understanding of the intricate Avadhana vi tradition of Odisha. Moreover, the flexibility in language choice—Sanskrit, Odia, or both-further distinguishes Odisha’s Avadhana practices. As the reader delves into the pages of this book, they are taken through the multilingual, multilayered world of Odisha’s Avadhana. The meticulous examination of subject-wise tests, the integration of theory and application, and the extraordinary Avadhana experiences will collectively weave a narrative that not only preserves the tradition’s legacy but also invites a renewed appreciation for the intellectual and cultural finesse intrinsic to Odisha’s Avadhana

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Prateek Pattanaik is a researcher and a Musician. an Odissi vocalist and Binakara, he was initiated into music by his grandmother, then continued training under Guru Brundabana Khandual and finally Pt Ramarao Patro, in the lineage of early 20th-century maestro 'Astabadhani Acharjya' Tarini Charan Patra. He is currently engaged as a research scholar on the 17th-century treatise 'Sangitanarayana' in the Department of Odia, Berhampur University. His work primarily delas with palm leaf manuscripts, early gramophone records and neglected musical forms across the state. He is the author of two books on Odissi music and the Odia Language.

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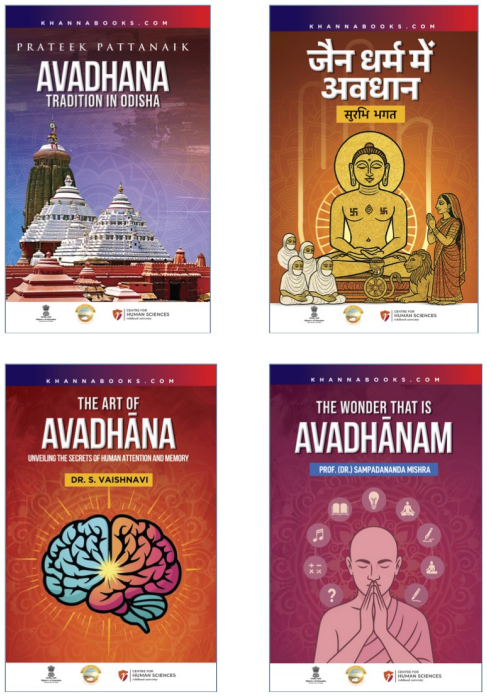

Prateek Pattanaik, Sampadananda Mishra, S. Vaishnavi, Surbhi Bhagat

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