

Mega Mammals in Ancient India

Rhinos, Tigers & Elephants

Shibani Bose

Notice by Kees Rookmaaker

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For those interested in the rhinoceros and elephant in an Indian environment, this book by Shibani Bose will open up the world of antiquity. She has assembled a large body of literature and provides an edited summary of what is known about faunal remains and visual depictions from archaeological sites. This is especially useful for western scholars who may not always have easy access to the growing literature published in South Asia. The book also discusses what has been written about rhinoceroses, elephants and tigers in the ancient Sanskrit, Pali and Pakrit accounts, which will appeal mainly to Indologists. These species were all once found much further to the west, in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Pakistan, indicating changes in

habitat, increased human population pressure or climate change over the past two millennia. Bose makes a brave attempt to understand the complexities of past theories of archaeology about the dating of the various remains and provides a useful overview. The book is published as a nice hardback or is otherwise available as an e-book without loss of data.

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