I had the pleasant opportunity to study a book on Mīmāṃsā namely Arthasamgraha in post graduate class in the department of Sanskrit, of Gauhati University in 2004. After completion of the study of the Arthasamgraha, I got myself interested in Mīmāṃsā philosophy. The topics and the mode of expression of the Arthasamgraha attracted me for further study of Mīmāṃsā through other Mīmāṃsā works.

Later on, when I approached my teacher Professor R.N. Sarma for doing Ph.D. under his guidance, then he advised me to take the ‘Tantrasiddhānta-Ratnāvali’ as the topic of my research. According to his advice and direction, I proposed to do a research work entitled “STUDIES IN THE TANTRASIDDHĀNTA-RATNĀVALI.”

The Tantrasiddhānta-Ratnāvali is a gloss on the Mīmāṃsā system written by Mahāmāhopādhyāya A. Chinnaswami Sastri. It is a work that belongs to the Bhāṭṭamīmāṃsā system of Kumārila Bhaṭṭa. The Tantrasiddhānta-Ratnāvali contains four chapters called parichedas and each chapter (paricheda) has again sub-chapters called prakāśa. There are fifteen sub-chapters in the
book in total. The tenets of the Mīmāṃsā system treated under the three areas namely Epistemology, Metaphysics and Ethics are discussed in this work by the author. The tenets of the system discussed in this work are – Dharma, Vidhi, Bhāvana, Arthavāda, Mantra, Nāmadheya, Pramāṇa, their numbers, Karma, Jāti, Śakti, Abhāva, Ākāṅkṣā, Āṅgatva, sources of knowledge, Atideśa and Mokṣa. These are the principal topics of Mīmāṃsā discussed in Tantrasiddhānta-Ratnāvali.

The Tantrasiddhānta-Ratnāvali is a very rare book. It was published once only in 1944 from Benares and now not available in market. Moreover, the book has no translation in any language. And as such there is scope for doing research on this book.

This dissertation is a result of our humble effort of last four years. We have tried our best to complete the research work, but there is every possibility of there being mistake in the work. However, we believe in the famous saying -

“शूर्यब्रह्म दोषमुत्सृज्य गुण गृहन्नति साधवः”

(Rubul Barman)