Preface

I felt the urge for a close study of the history and culture of Arunachal Pradesh while I had been working there in the capacity of an archaeological officer. Many a query relating to the land and the people which arose in my mind found no ready answer in available works. The materials I started collecting there to meet those questions have ultimately enabled me to prepare this book. In the present state of our knowledge it has not been possible to go into the details of every problem concerning the history of the Union Territory. An attempt is, however, made to emphasise the main traits of its culture, their origin and its relationship with other parts of India. This, when followed up by further investigation, may enable us to assess better the contributions of the various non-Aryan groups of people (who predominated in such outlying regions of the country as Arunachal Pradesh) to the mainstream of Indian civilisation.

The book has been divided into eight chapters. The first chapter contains the introduction in which are given comments on the work so far done in the field and nature of the present study. The sources of the history of Arunachal Pradesh have also been delineated there. The geographical setting and a short sketch of the tribes, their language and religion occur in the second chapter. Chapter III deals with archaeological
remains right from the birth of human civilisation. Fossils, pre-historic tools, secular and religious structures of historical period, inscriptions and coins have been described therein along with discussion regarding their peculiarities and significance. The fourth chapter presents an analysis of the available information on ethnic elements and a framework of political history of the Union Territory. Next three chapters together include study of different aspects of art, culture and economy on the basis of material remains and documents. In the concluding chapter a summary of the discussion and some broad remarks are to be found.

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Subid Chatterjee