

Siri Bhuvalaya – An Ancient Universal Archive of Knowledge in Jain Tradition

Suman Jain¹, Mohit Tailor², Gargi Jain³

Abstract

Siri Bhuvalaya, attributed to the Jain monk Kumudendu around the 11th century C.E., represents a unique multidimensional literary work that outshines conventional textual forms. Encoded through complex numerical matrices known as chakras and combinatorial rules called bandhas, it preserves a vast interdisciplinary compilation encompassing philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, medicine, and linguistics. The text embodies Jain doctrines of pluralism and conditional truth by enabling multiple valid readings across over 700 languages. This paper examines the historical context, structural design, content scope, philosophical implications, and contemporary decoding efforts related to Siri Bhuvalaya. The study highlights its significance as an ancient universal archive designed to safeguard human knowledge across temporal and cultural divides. In addition, the paper explores the remarkable mathematical organization underlying the manuscript, demonstrating how numerical encoding functions as both a linguistic and cryptographic system. It discusses the manuscript's potential relevance to modern fields such as information theory, data compression, multilingual knowledge representation, and digital preservation. By comparing its structural principles with contemporary computational methods, the study emphasizes the enduring intellectual value of this extraordinary work. The ongoing challenges of decipherment, limited manuscript availability, and interdisciplinary research requirements further underscore the importance of collaborative scholarship in unlocking the complete knowledge preserved within this exceptional literary and scientific masterpiece.

Keywords: Siri bhuvalaya, jain tradition, cryptography, interdisciplinary knowledge, anekāntavāda, pluralism, ancient Indian literature.

INTRODUCTION

Siri Bhuvalaya acknowledged as one of the most intricate intellectual undertakings within the Jain and broader Indian scholarly traditions. Unlike conventional texts composed sequentially in a single language or script, Siri Bhuvalaya is encoded as a multidimensional archive utilizing numerical matrices of 27*27 termed as “chakras,” supported by explanatory pattern bindings known as “bandhas.” This highly sophisticated design integrates visual, numerical, and linguistic elements into a self-referential code capable of yielding coherent content in multiple languages depending on the decoding method used [1].

*Author for Correspondence

Suman Jain
E-mail: librarian@jecrc.ac.in

¹Librarian, Department of Library, Poornima Institute of Engineering and Technology, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

²Assistant Professor, Department of AI & DS, Poornima Institute of Engineering and Technology, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

³Assistant Professor, Department of CSE, Poornima Institute of Engineering and Technology, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Received Date: February 05, 2026

Accepted Date: July 13, 2026

Published Date: July 14, 2026

Citation: Suman Jain, Mohit Tailor, Gargi Jain. Siri Bhuvalaya – An Ancient Universal Archive of Knowledge in Jain Tradition. International Journal of Trends in Humanities. 2026; 3(2): 10–14.

According to the traditional and historical belief, the Siri Bhuvalaya was written by Kumudendu Muni, a Jain ascetic and polymath believed to have composed the work around the 11th or 12th century C.E. Its composite on reflects fundamental Jain philosophical principles, particularly anekāntavāda, the doctrine of multiple viewpoints, and syādvāda, the conditional validity of statements [2]. By enabling multiple valid interpretations accessible across diverse languages

and disciplines, Siri Bhuvalaya enacts these doctrines not only conceptually but also methodologically [3].

In a historical milieu where manuscripts are vulnerable to physical degradation, languages evolve, and cultural knowledge often fragments, Siri Bhuvalaya's cryptographic architecture appears as a visionary attempt to preserve and universalize human knowledge. It encodes extensive interdisciplinary content spanning philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, medicine, and linguistics into a resilient, language-transcending form [4].

This paper presents a comprehensive analysis of SiriBhuvalaya's genesis, cryptographic structure, interdisciplinary content, philosophical significance, and the modern scholarly efforts to decode and interpret it. By exploring this unique text, the study seeks to bring out the ancient Indian epistemological approaches and examine their implications for the preservation and transmission of knowledge across cultural and temporal boundaries.

Historical Background

Understanding the historical background of *Siri Bhuvalaya* is essential for appreciating its uniqueness and enduring significance. The manuscript emerged during the medieval period of Indian intellectual development and reflects the rich scholarly traditions of Jain literature.

Authorship and Dating

Siri Bhuvalaya is traditionally attributed to Kumudendu Muni, a Digambara Jain monk and scholar, whose impressive intellectual brilliance is reflected in the text's elaborating synthesis of philosophical, mathematical, and linguistic system. While accurate historical documentation is limited, linguistic and paleographic analyses indicate that the text was composed around the 11th to 12th centuries CE [5].

Kumudendu is believed to have been a disciple in the Jain monastic tradition and is acknowledged for pioneering this unique numeric literary form [6].

Manuscript Preservation and Survival

The physical manuscripts of Siri Bhuvalaya are present only in fragmented form; Kannada numerals in 27x27 matrices (chakras) are used to inscribe these manuscripts predominantly [7]. These fragile manuscripts are scattered across private collections and temple archives, complicating preservation and comprehensive study. Efforts made by Jain institutions and digital humanities projects have made it possible to catalog and digitize available materials, yet only a fraction of the estimated 16,000 chakras comprising the complete work have been recovered [8].

Scholarly Awareness and Research History

For centuries, Siri Bhuvalaya remained largely inaccessible due to its unconventional format and cryptic numeric encoding. Interest in the text was limited until the late 20th century, when experts in Jain studies joined hands with cryptographers, the investigation into these texts entered a new phase, one that combined historical insight with analytical decoding to better understand their composition and purpose [9]. Research centers such as Kundkund Gyanpeeth in Indore have played an important role in encouraging interdisciplinary scholarship, combining historical, linguistic, mathematical, and computational expertise to advance decoding efforts [10]. Modern computational tools and natural language processing techniques have recently been employed to automate aspects of the translation of numeric codes into phonetic and semantic content [11].

Structural and Cryptographic Architecture

The structural and cryptographic architecture of *Siri Bhuvalaya* is one of its most distinctive features. The manuscript encodes textual information through numerical matrices and predefined

combinatorial rules rather than conventional writing. This innovative design enables multiple layers of interpretation, reflecting an advanced system of knowledge preservation and secure information encoding that was far ahead of its time.

Chakras: The Fundamental Units

At the heart of Siri Bhuvalaya's encoding system lie the chakras 27x27 numerical matrices filled predominantly with integers ranging from 1 to 64. These matrices serve multiple functions simultaneously: as visual diagrams, numeric codes, and phonetic maps. The non-linear, layered numerical arrangements within each chakra demand specialized combinatorial expertise for correct interpretation. The design of chakras incorporates symmetrical patterns, rotational structure, and numerical relationships reminiscent of magic squares, enabling the generation of multiple semantic outputs depending on the decoding rules applied.

Bandhas: Combinatorial Bindings and Decoding Rules

Bandhas constitute the combinatorial framework that regulates the interconnection between chakras, reading directions, and the transformation of numeric values into phonemes or semantic units. These rules include rotational symmetries, mirroring, numeric substitutions, and other transformations that yield distinct linguistic outputs depending on the decoding schema. The flexibility of bandhas allows the same numeric data to be read in multiple ways, underpinning the text's principle of multiple valid perspectives [11].

Multilingual and Multidirectional Decoding

A remarkable feature of Siri Bhuvalaya is its capacity to produce valid interpretations in over 700 languages, including Kannada, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Prakrit, and others. By applying different bandhas, the text transcends linguistic boundaries, effectively functioning as a universal grammar encoded numerically. This multidirectional decoding aligns with the Jain philosophical doctrine of *anekāntavāda*, wherein truth manifests differently depending on perspective.

Computational Approaches and Software Tools

Modern research efforts have leveraged computational linguistics and natural language processing to automate parts of the decoding process. Software developed for this purpose deciphers Kannada numerals into phonemes, explores probable semantic outputs, and navigates combinatorial complexity [12]. These computational tools facilitate pattern recognition and cross-validation against existing Jain literature, advancing the understanding of this cryptic text.

Content Scope and Interdisciplinary Integration A. Jain Philosophy and Religious Doctrine

Siri Bhuvalaya extensively encodes Jain philosophical doctrines, including *anekāntavāda*, *syādvāda*, karma theory, and Jain cosmology. The text's structural multiplicity enacts Jain epistemology by embodying the coexistence of multiple truths and perspectives. As a spiritual treatise, it offers insights into ethics, metaphysics, and soteriology central to Jainism [13].

Mathematics and Numeracy

Embedded within the chakras are advanced combinatorial mathematics, including magic-square-like properties, harmonic ratios, and elements of number theory. These mathematical constructs not only encode numeric data but also reflect an ancient Indian tradition of integrating mathematics with metaphysical concepts.

Astronomy and Physics

The text symbolically represents celestial phenomena, planetary cycles, and physical constants through angular sectors and numeric patterns in the chakras. This suggests a sophisticated understanding of ancient Indian astronomy and proto-physics encoded metaphorically, contributing to the broader corpus of Indian astronomical literature.

Chemistry and Alchemy

Numerical patterns and colorcodings within the text correspond to chemical elements, alchemical processes, and biological classifications. This proto-scientific classification system reflects the medieval Indian alchemical tradition, which combined material studies with spiritual and medicinal aims.

Medicine and Health Sciences

Siri Bhuvalaya encodes medical knowledge including dosha theory, pathological classifications, and treatment protocols. Geometric prescriptions combining numbers, forms, and colors symbolically specify ailments and remedies, indicating an integrative approach to health sciences [14].

Linguistics and Language Encoding

Beyond its content, the text represents a monumental linguistic endeavor aiming toward a universal language concept. By abstracting form from language-specific constraints, the encoding system anticipates modern information theory concepts such as Unicode and machine-readable metadata.

Technologies and Innovations

Rare references in the text allude to advanced technologies such as flying machines and concepts resembling space travel, suggesting a visionary scope extending into speculative ancient technologies [15].

Philosophical and Linguistic Implications A. Jain Doctrine and Pluralism

The multimodal interpretative structure of Siri Bhuvalaya enacts Jain pluralism, refusing to privilege any single viewpoint or language. This methodological pluralism exemplifies *anekāntavāda* as a lived epistemological practice, fostering tolerance and open-mindedness.

Universal Language and Futureproofing

Encoding knowledge in abstract numerical forms accessible across languages anticipates modern universal encoding standards. Siri Bhuvalaya's design aims to safeguard knowledge against linguistic attrition and cultural fragmentation, effectively 'futureproofing' information transmission [16].

Redefining Text and Literature

The text challenges traditional assumptions of literature as linear, semantic, and script based. It expands literary forms to include non-linear, cryptographic, and multisensory knowledge transmission, urging reconsideration of what constitutes 'text' in a broader epistemic sense.

Contemporary Research and Decoding Efforts A. Workshops and Scholarly Collaborations

Institutions like Kundkund Gyanpeeth have hosted workshops bringing together historians, linguists, mathematicians, and computer scientists to analyze Siri Bhuvalaya's structure and advance decoding methodologies [17].

Computational Linguistics and Cryptanalysis

Recent research utilizes cryptographic keys (*bandhas*) and linguistic models to convert Kannada numeral matrices into tentative phonetic and semantic outputs. These are validated against Jain scripture and scientific knowledge to refine interpretations [18].

Challenges in Decoding

The vast corpus (~16,000 *chakras* originally), fragmentary manuscripts, and combinatorial explosion of possible readings pose significant difficulties. Achieving scholarly consensus requires sustained interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative computational tools.

Challenges and Future Research Directions A. Manuscript Preservation and Digitization

Securing fragile manuscripts, digitizing extant materials, and creating open-access databases are critical priorities for

Preserving this unique text and enabling global scholarly engagement.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Decoding Siri Bhuvalaya demands ongoing cooperation among historians, cryptographers, linguists, mathematicians, Jain scholars, and computer scientists, fostering a holistic understanding [19].

Impact on Jain Studies and History of Science

Complete decipherment could illuminate neglected aspects of Jain philosophy, ancient Indian science, and multilingual literary traditions, enriching both religious studies and the history of knowledge [20].

CONCLUSION

Siri Bhuvalaya epitomizes a visionary fusion of art, science, religion, and linguistic ingenuity. As a multidimensional archive, it transcends traditional textual forms to embody Jain pluralism through a universal numeric language aimed at preserving human knowledge for posterity. Its intricate cryptographic design and interdisciplinary scope reveal an ancient epistemological sophistication that anticipates contemporary information theory and computational linguistics. Ongoing scholarly efforts promise to unlock its secrets, offering profound insights into premodern knowledge systems, Indian intellectual history, and humanity's enduring quest to safeguard wisdom across ages.

REFERENCES

1. Sheth C. SIRIBHOOVALAYA. Journal Of Arts and Literature. 2023 May 22;2(3):1-5.
2. Bennett L. Thinking about "thinking like a brick". Qualitative Research Journal. 2026 May 28;26(3):281-92.
3. Johnson WJ. The Religious Function of Jaina Philosophy: Anekāntavāda Reconsidered. Religion. 1995 Jan 1;25(1):41-50.
4. Sheshadri K. Classification of flowers as gleaned from ancient Indian literature and culture. Asian Agri-History. 2016 Jul 1;20(3):181-99.
5. Petit J. Absolute and conventional points of view in Jainism: A historical perspective. Buddhist and Jaina Studies. 2014(6):387-402.
6. Soni J. The Conundrum of Kundakunda's Status in the Digambara Tradition. Journal of Indian Philosophy. 2023 Nov;51(5):645-62.
7. Vande Berg T. Gurus and Media: Sound, Image, Machine, Text and the Digital ed. by Jacob Copeman, Arkotong Longkumer and Koonal Duggal. Nova Religio. 2026;29(3):104-6.
8. Bernardini S, Ferraresi A, Russo M, Collard C, Defrancq B. Building interpreting and intermodal corpora: A how-to for a formidable task. In Making way in corpus-based interpreting studies 2017 Oct 25 (pp. 21-42). Singapore: Springer Singapore.
9. Vohra BB. Human environment in India: some suggestions for an action programme. Indian Journal of Public Administration. 1972 Apr;18(2):186-99.
10. Krishnaraj PM. Cryptographic interweaving of messages. International Journal of Data Informatics and Intelligent Computing. 2023 Mar 24;2(1):42-50.
11. Bhatta DC. The voice of brahman in laxmi prasad devkota's "The Lunatic"—An upanishadic reading. Int J English Lit Lang Ski. 2021; 9:14-26.
12. SHARMA SL. Sri Aurobindo's Savitri: A Tapestry of Female Life-Force. Research Journal of English language and Literature (RJELAL). 2014;2(3):307-11.
13. FIYgel P. The Invention of Jainism a Short History of Jaina Studies. International Journal of Jaina Studies (Online). 2005;1(1):1-4.
14. Johnston EH. Some Sanskrit Inscriptions of Arakan. Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies. 1944 Jun;11(2):357-85.
15. Shrimali KM. Reason and rationality. Social Scientist. 2018 Mar 1;46(3-4 (538-539):3-44.
16. Moorty SS. 'Narrative Technique in Raja Rao's "Kanthapura"'. Commonwealth (Dijon). 1996 Oct 1;19(1):111.
17. McCasland H. Jainism and the LGBTQ+ Community. Samyak: An Undergraduate Journal of Jain Studies. 2025 Oct 1;1(2):29-34.
18. Krüger PF. Imaging the Divine. The Depiction of Gods and Deified Beings in Illustrations of Kalpasūtra Manuscripts from Western India. Art of the Orient. 2022(11):51-78.

-
19. Sethi M. Chastity and desire: Representing women in Jainism. *South Asian History and Culture*. 2009 Dec 22;1(1):42-59.
 20. Stuart MJ. Male Guardians of Women's Virtue: A Dharmaśāstric Theme and Its Jain Variations. *Journal of American Oriental Society*. 2013 Mar 1;133(1):35-56.