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Prof. Tankha's research interest in Japan revolves around the nature and character of Japanese nationalism and how this was shaped in the late 19th and 20th centuries. He has examined the ideas of such diverse thinkers such as Kita Ikki, Kotoku Shusui, Okakura Tenshin, Minakata Kumagusu in pursuing this question. He is also interested in Japan's complicated relationship within the Asian region, particularly with China and India and what is called Pan-Asianism. Prof. Tankha also has an interest in contemporary Japan's international policies and relations within Asia.