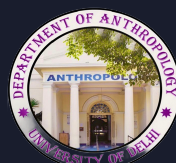


FEBRUARY 21 TO 23, 2021

INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS 2021

Congress Report- Summary

ORGANIZED BY



Department of Anthropology,
University of Delhi

UNDER THE AEGIS OF



Indian National Confederation and the Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA)



Indian Anthropology Congress 2021

“Anthropology: Theory to Application”

21st to 23rd February, 2021

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Introduction

Indian Anthropology Congress 2021 was hosted by Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi this year on behalf of Indian Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA). The International Conference was organized from 21st February to 23rd February in dual mode, both online and offline. The theme of the Congress for this year was **Anthropology: Theory to Application**. The Congress was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor (Acting) of University of Delhi Prof. P.C. Joshi on 21st February. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. M.P. Sachdeva. Prof. P.R. Mondal spoke about the conference which was followed by a Prof. K.K. Basa's speech about INCAA as an outstanding organization in the field of Anthropology. Prof. I.S. Marwah was the guest of Honour and he shared his wisdom with the audience regarding Anthropology. Prof. P.C. Joshi was the chief guest of the inaugural session and the Vote of Thanks was given by Prof. K.N. Saraswathy. Day One of the Conference began with the B.M. Das Memorial Lecture which was delivered by esteemed Prof. Siva Prasad. The conference further went on and Nine Scientific Sessions were held in the last three days, with five parallel sessions running for every session. Thus, overall, the organizing committee hosted 42 parallel sessions in three days, along with 3 memorial lectures and one round table session. The Conference had more than 230 paper presenters and more than registered 300 participants. The organizing committee including the chair, Co-chair and coordinator invited and united anthropologist from all over India.

During the three days of the congress, questions pertaining to mental health and wellbeing, physical health issues etc., were deliberated. Large numbers of paper were presented on themes like food culture, crime and forensics and art & culture etc. Another major theme was gender and sexuality. To sum up, the congress successfully explored practical applications of theoretical concepts of anthropology that can applied for human welfare.

Day 1

Day one started with the Inaugural ceremony which included Welcome address by Prof. M.P. Sachdeva, about the conference by Prof. P. R. Mondal, About INCAA by Prof. K.K. Basa, address by guest of honour Prof. I.S. Marwah and Chief guest- Prof. P.C. Joshi and Vote of thanks by Prof. K. N. Saraswathy. Inaugural session was followed by B.M. Das memorial lecture delivered by Prof. R. Siva Prasad on "theory behind practice and practice behind theory: the case of indigenous knowledge" and one round table on anthropology, towards an integrated paradigm with panel members Prof. Sabit Acharya, Prof. Subhadra Channa, Prof. S.L. Malik, Prof. Dwipen Bezbarua, Prof. Vijaya Prakash, Prof. Mitashree Mitra, Prof. Ranjan Gaur, Prof. P.R. Mondal and Dr. Naresh Kumar Vaid. In total of 43 participants presented their papers on the first day on different themes, which included: **Physical and mental health: issues of wellbeing; Food culture and nutrition; Anthropological genetics; Gender and sexuality, Power of politics; Rural/Urban Transformation**

Inaugural session

The conference begin with honoring the chief guest Prof. P. C. Joshi and guest of honour Prof. I. R. Marwah. Prof K. K. Basa was virtually welcomed.



Photo: Prof. Mondal, Prof. Marwah, Prof. Joshi and Prof. Sachdeva (left to right)

Prof. B. Benrithung Murry, the host of the session, gave a brief introduction about the congress and then invited the chief guest to address the congress. Reflecting on the theme 'Theory to Application' Prof. Joshi remembered legendary Tarak Chand Das and K. P. Chatupadhyay and their work in the practice of anthropology during Bengal famine. He further remembered L. P. Vidhyarthi's book '*Applied anthropology in India*'. Prof. Joshi remarked that Indian Anthropology is weak in theory however strong in practice. He concluded his address by

expressing confidence that this congress will be a benchmark in motivating people to work on theories and hence link them to practice.



Photo: Prof. Joshi addressing the congress

The host, then, invited the chairperson of the congress Prof. M. P. Sachdeva for his address. Prof. Sachdeva, as the chairperson of the congress, welcomed 'hazrin and nazrin' – those who were present and those watching. He introduced the glorious work being done in the department. With a hope that deliberations during this congress will open new vistas of research, he concluded his address.



Photo: Prof. Sachdeva addressing the congress

Next, the host invited Prof. P. R. Mondal, the convener of the congress, to give a brief about the congress. As a convener, Prof. Mondal introduced the theme of the congress –theory to application. He put forward his anticipation that the congress will not only update our professional knowledge but also help in addressing the need based people oriented plan of action. He also articulated that policy makers of the country will be greatly benefited from this congress. He voiced that in order to remain relevant anthropology will have to address the challenges faced by humans. These challenges can't be resolved from the knowledge drawn from one discipline. Anthropology is at a vintage point due to its emphasis on holism and empirical understanding. He said that Anthropology has ignored a few fields like media. Hence the congress should reflect on sidelined topics to bridge the research gap. And further link the theory with application so that knowledge of anthropology can be applied in nation building.



Photo: Prof. Mondal giving brief about the congress

The congress was then addressed by Prof K. K. Basa, chairperson INCAA. He started his speech with a brief introduction of INCAA. INCAA was founded in 2004 with objectives of creating a network of professional anthropologists as resourceful, promoting excellence in anthropology, establishing liaison with anthropological societies, associations and other anthropological bodies and strengthening anthropological bodies, and setting up regional chapters of INCAA etc. The first Indian Anthropology Congress was held in 2004 in NEHU, Shilong. Initially it was decided to organize Indian Anthropology Congress once in 3 years; however from 2014 onwards it is being organized annually. He expressed his happiness that 2021 Congress is being organized by University of Delhi. He, then, voiced his opinion on the theme of the current congress and said that we should have a right balance between theory and application. He concluded his address by congratulating the department of anthropology for organizing the congress in dual (physical and online) mode.



Photo: Prof. Basa giving introduction of INCAA

Next, the host invited the guest of honour, Prof. I. R. Marwah for his address. Prof. Marwah reflected on the theme of the congress and remarked that fieldwork undertaken by social anthropologists has both theoretical and applied aspect. He expressed his pleasure on looking at wide range of topics that will be discussed in three days of the congress. He quoted Redcliff-Brown and reiterated that Anthropology is science because we follow the methodology and empiricism of science. He remarked that broad scope of the subject is the strength of anthropology not the weakness. He mentioned the quotation that 'Anthropology is most humanistic of all sciences and most scientific of all humanities.' Further he talked about the intersection of anthropology with other disciplines like history and political science etc. He also mentioned the works of Elvin and Dube. He concluded his speech with paying tribute to former anthropologists of India.



Photo: Prof. Marwah addressing the congress

Finally, the host invited Prof. K. N. Saraswathy for vote of thanks. Prof. Saraswathy thanked Prof. Joshi for his constant encouragement and support for the event. She, then, thanked the academic and online committees for planning and organizing the event. First of she mentioned the contribution of Dr. Mahajan and Dr. Mitra. Then she brought forward the contribution of Dr. Avitoli Zhimo in leading the online committee. She acknowledged the contribution of Dr. Vipin Gupta in organizing the physical meeting. She also thanked Dr. Shivani Chandel, Dr. N. Kiranmala Devi and Dr. M. Kennedy Singh. She, then, thanked the head of the department Prof. Sachdeva for his overall support. Finally, she thanked the non-teaching staff of the department. She acknowledged the contribution of INCAA and thanked them for their role in the organization.



Photo: Prof. Saraswathy giving vote of thanks

Vote of thanks by Prof. Saraswathy marked the conclusion of inaugural session of the congress. Lectures, deliberations and debates of day 1 followed the inaugural session.

B. M. Das Memorial Lecture

Following the inaugural session, B.M. Das memorial lecture delivered by Prof. R. Siva Prasad on "theory behind practice and practice behind theory: the case of indigenous knowledge." Prof Prasad began his lecture by acknowledging the contribution of prof. B. M. Das in furthering Anthropology in India. He remarked that indigenous communities are 'theoreticians' as they first observe the surrounding and then apply the knowledge in practice and then refine the practice and the knowledge. Indigenous knowledge is produced by trial and error method. He also mentioned that indigenous knowledge is holistic and integrated. He expressed concern that integration of indigenous people in the larger society leads to disruption of their economic,

cultural and political system and hence tradition knowledge. He concluded by stating that indigenous knowledge can be useful if indigenous people have access to the resources.



Photo: Prof. Siva Prasad delivering B.M. Das memorial lecture

Scientific Session 1

The B. M. Das Memorial Lecture, was followed by the **Scientific Session 1** of the congress. In total 23 speakers presented their papers in five differently themed parallel sessions this scientific session.

Parallel Session 1: Physical and Mental Health: Issues of wellbeing

Parallel session 1 was chaired by Prof. Roumi Deb and Co-Chaired by Dr. Ratika Samtani. The session was addressed by Dr. Vipin Gupta, Dr. Shivani Chandel, Sanjenbam Yaiphaba and Abhilasha Kapoor.

The first speaker of the session **Dr. Vipin Gupta** talked about the impact of biomass fuel on Gestational Weight Gain (GWG) using findings from a current on-going research project called '*GaRBH project*' conducted by the University of Delhi. GWG is a complex and unique biological phenomenon required for optimal growth and development of the fetus. Although,

with huge diversity and various cultural features, behaviour, clinical practices and traditions, in all populations, it can influence the GWG. In case optimum gestation weight gain is not achieved, then there are two scenarios of pathological conditions: insufficient weight gain and excessive weight gain. The current presentation is based on an ongoing '*GaRBHproject*' which is the first study to examine the effect of biomass fuel on gestational weight gain. As Rajasthan being the 5th most affected state for maternal and neo-natal disorders, a longitudinal hospital based study (2018-2021) was conducted in Prince Bijoy Memorial Hospital, Bikaner, to study the prevalence of biomass fuel and its associated exposure with gestational weight gain. A sample of about 1000 mother-child pairs was studied, and the sample for current analysis is 180 focusing on a wide range of data set from each trimester been collected like metabolomics assessment, anthropometric measurements, and biochemistry of mothers, and ultrasound for fetal growth along with metabolomics assessment, anthropometric measurement and biochemistry of offspring. Based on the analysis of data from 180 participants showed that there is a high prevalence of using biomass fuel for cooking and other purposes, and this exposure has association with gestational weight gain affecting the health of mother and child or other pregnancy related problems. In recommendation, speaker talked about some policy implications such that burning of biomass fuel influences maternal and child health, so there is a need to shift to alternative cooking fuels under state-level govt. interventions, monitoring and funding to provide with appropriate resources and proper assessment of the govt.'s existing policies like 'Ujjwala Yojana' about the acceptance in people, its health evaluation and cultural implication on the population.

The second speaker **Dr. Shivani Chandel** talked about physical and mental fitness in today's world under the effect of Covid-19 pandemic around the world through the prism of a combination of studies conducted on two minority communities and a profession, referred from few ongoing projects and its consolidated analytical facts. The speaker talked how covid-19 pandemic has made people aware of the major global imbalances and challenges people face today, and it has completely changed the way we perceive the health. The pandemic has not only affected the physical but mental health of people worldwide exacerbated the risk of anxiety, depression and stress. Fitness meaning readiness where fit people are better equipped than non-fit people to face any challenges or sudden situation. It is important to be fit both physically as well as mentally. Majority of people perceive as fit, however upon proper assessment it could be seen that people are either physically unfit or mentally stressed. Speaker talked about the project studying the 2 minority communities of Ramgarhia Sikh community of Delhi and Sunni Muslim population of Lucknow; and a profession of Kathak dancers of North India about their physical and mental health. The result showed that both the communities are relatively non-healthy as physically and mentally while the dancing community showed positive results in their fitness. So, working on muscle strength and dance-like activities could lead to better fitness and less stress and mental issues. Also, in covid-19 era, people can stay home and use stress-balls or can dance to be physically and mentally fit which is the need of the hour. Lack of physical activity, lack of proper nutrition, increase workload and psychological occupational stress, increase in

number of people working while seating led to obesity, hypertension, diabetes, cardio-vascular disorders, depression and anxiety. As recommendation, the speaker suggested that regular exercises which are cost effective and recreational especially in covid-19 era can prevent much of diseases and illness and a need to educate and empower communities about mental and physical health problems and to conduct relevant studies related to fitness in terms of both physical and mental aspects.

Yaiphaba Meitiei studied the relationship between staying at home, Insomnia and internet addiction. That data collection has happened online with the help of google forms. The sample size of 585 individuals from an age group of 18-50 includes informants from diverse backgrounds as medical workers, engineers, teachers etc. from Manipur. The study conclusively reports a rate of prevalence of insomnia that is higher than the recorder general prevalence of 8-40%. Bringing in the influence factors of internet addiction and staying at home, we have a higher prevalence of insomnia among the females than males even though the prevalence of internet addiction was found more among the males. To questions raised regarding the reason of this trend, the author invited attention to the differences of male and female psyche. The paper in a broader attempt, tries to look at the implications of such policies as digital India in this light.

Abhilasha Kapoor explored the correlation between two common place and underappreciated forms of illness- Diabetes and Depression. The paper pressed the need to understand diabetes in its multidimensional scope. The discussion here turns towards the socio-cultural contexts that engage with the illness- From economic stressors to such psychological stressors as the stigmas of a chronic and sometimes terminal illness. An appreciation of cultural factors like food habits and occupational habits in the understanding of diabetes is further called for. The factor of depression is interlinked with these socio-cultural contexts and the prevalence of diabetes and a comprehensive picture of the interplay between these factors is realized to reach the conclusion that an anthropological lens is required to design a socio-cultural model that can effectively address public health issues.

Parallel Session 2: Food Culture and Nutrition

This session was chaired by Prof. Indu Talwar and Co-Chair: Dr. P. Venkataramana. The session was addressed by four speakers.

First Presenter, **Swapankumar Sardar** talked about Comparative account on BMI, Height and Weight between the Santal and Bhumij Adolescents of West Bengal, India. It was an attempt to reveal a comparison between the Santal and Bhumij adolescents in respect of their Height, Weight and Body Mass Index (BMI) from West Bengal a state of India. To solve the purpose 135 Santal (Age; 12.82 ± 3.07) adolescents as well as 61 Bhumij (Age; 10.70 ± 3.18) adolescents

were chosen from the Purulia District of West Bengal. Present study was never suggesting any sexual dimorphism. Results revealed that the significantly higher BMI, Height & Weight was found among the Santal's than that of the Bhumij's. However, all the subjects of both the groups were come under the normal range of global BMI cut off.

Antara Bose spoke about Overview on Nutrition and its Necessity among Adolescents. Nutrition is an essential component which is mainly found in foods that contribute to healthy growth and development of the body. The need of proper nutrition depicts its prominence implication among the growing adolescents. Adolescents, the transitional group between childhood and adulthood serves a very important period as the pubertal growth takes place during this ongoing phase thus proper maintenance of nutritional balance is very important. Nutritional imbalance can give rise to malnutrition where the results may cause either overnutrition or undernutrition. Thus, increase in malnutrition leads to different types of infectious, communicable or non-communicable diseases. This presenter highlights the importance of nutrition among the growing adolescents.

Rima Gosh third Presenter talked about Foods & Nutrients have the ability in combating SARS-COV-19: Our immunity system is depended on our diet partly. Recent world wide situation is completely hanged on with our immune system. Nutrition assessment and analysis is the first line defence from non-communicable diseases like- CVD, Diabetes, Hypertension etc, and there are mounting evidences that proved these co-morbidities predispose of SARS-COV-2 infection. This study is to enlighten the population about diet does and don't in this Covid situation. This is summarized nutrition and immunity works that will help us to incorporate some of diet habit in our day to day life. Our immune system is dependent on nutrition constitutes by maintenance the immune homeostasis throughout our life. A single food or dietary component cannot immunise us. Nutrition support can be the base of treatment in COVID 19 affected persons in prevention and in post recovery period.

Fourth speaker **Harsh vats** talked about the impact of maternal lifestyle factors on risk of Macrosomia. Macrosomia is associated with several health complications for both mothers and infants in the immediate, short and long term. Elevated body mass index in mothers and excessive gestational weight gain have long been associated with fetal macrosomia, although, the impact of maternal lifestyle factors such as dietary intake and energy balance have been less studied. Although elevated body mass index and excessive gestational weight gain increase the risk of macrosomia independently, but the risk is magnified with the presence of both risk factors. Association studies examining the relationship between fetal nutrient availability, epigenetic modification and infant anthropometrics are also required. This finding provides the overview of the current evidence examining the role of maternal lifestyle factors on the prevalence of macrosomia.

Parallel Session 3: Anthropological Genetics

Parallel session 3 was chaired Dr. A.M. Elizabeth and Co-Chaired by Dr. Simi Khan. The session was started by Prof. K.N. Saraswathy with an introduction of the session and chairperson and co-chairperson. There were four speakers for this session.

First speaker Diptendu Chatterjee started with a description of the problem and the current health policy of the nation. His study was based on the north eastern region of India. The speaker explained how obesity is a major risk factor for diabetes. The objective was to understand the association of genetic polymorphism with obesity and body composition. His sample included 225 randomly selected individuals from 12 ethnic groups. FTO, ACE3, PSD3 AND A604G genotyping by Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) was performed for the study. His findings concluded that the association from the comprehensive data collected on anthropometric measurements on body patterns on the distribution of body fats and the rare genetic polymorphism, especially in the North Eastern parts of India.

Dr. Suniti Yadav highlighted the major issues related to stroke. She stated that it was the 5th main cause of death in 2016 and low and middle income countries have witnessed an increase in the stroke while the developing countries saw a drop of 42%. She focused on how anthropology brings a holistic approach in studying stroke and its prevalence of different factors in different zones studying stroke in Pan India. She raised some of the key issues such as hypertension, need of comprehensive data and its high morbidity rate. Dr. Suniti also highlighted the role of public health policy and planning where anthropologists can help.

A background on Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus was given by **Pranabesh Sarkar** and the global prevalence of this disease was highlighted and also estimation by WHO that by 2030 around 366million would be suffering from this disease. The speaker based his study on the association of genetic polymorphism with T2DM of gene PPARG (rs 1801282). His area of the study was West Bengal and the participants were the Bengalee people from the Hindu Caste. His findings revealed there is no association of obesity with CCvs CG genotype but CG genotype is higher in percentage of body fat and risk in T2DM.

Mr. Arun Kumar initiated his presentation by highlighting that liver enzymes in blood plasma are used as diagnostic tools for liver dysfunction. Alcohol consumption, hepatitis (HBV, HCV), fatty disease, etc. He commented that Genome wide association studies confirms PNPLA3 gene with liver enzyme markers. In India, there are a limited number of studies and his objective of the study was to understand the PNPLA3 gene variant. His methods included transgenerational, epidemiological cohort studies, socio demographic data were collected and also biochemical parameters, DNA extraction, etc. were collected. His findings included lifestyle variables such as alcohol consumption, smoking, etc. varied and majority was found among the low and middle socio economic population.

Parallel Session 4: Gender and Sexuality

Parallel session 4 was chaired by Prof. Nita Mathur, and co-chair: Kalindi Sharma. The session was addressed by six speakers.

First speaker **Dr. Mitashree Srivastava** explored the meaning of women empowerment in Buddhism through conversation with three Buddhist nuns. Buddhism follows a patriarchal ideology, in which men held the higher position in every aspect of the society. The total finding revolves around the fact that a women how far & long strive to attain Buddhism? Is there any biasness towards monks or nuns? The method used for collecting data was inclusion of Primary and Secondary data. Various challenges that was concluded after a conversation with 3 Buddhist nuns: For women claiming Buddha hood, women have to prove while men are not supposed to; For food, shelter & education, women have to strive for it; Biasness towards nuns. Conclusion: Women representative need to take initiative so that no women strive hard to attain Buddha hood. By setting new ideas, major changes can be brought into Buddhism culture. Only through leadership the patriarchy, class, caste system can be upgraded in India among the Buddhist.

Kanika Sharan talked about Menstruation Pollution Taboo and Gender disparity among Bhils in the village Raghunathpura, Udaipur. Menstruation is a natural organic phenomenon. This topic revolves around the fact that in India society menstruation is regarded as pollution whereas it is natural in general. In India, where people regard goddess Saraswati , goddess Durga as divine and women are also a form of goddess then why during menstruation they are regarded as pollution? Various acts performed in Indian society with women during periods are: Women are not allowed to perform or attend any religious celebration during periods.; They are not allowed inside the kitchen.; They are not allowed to drink cow milk as cow is regarded as a symbol of purity.; They are supposed to take bath in different well and outside the dormitory.; They are regarded as less intelligent during this period. Conclusion: it lacks self esteem and identity, it feels like an abuse for a women in periods, which is a breach of an individual's right. Domestic abuse is prevalent, by prevailing various rules & regulations. When women are considered as goddess then why during menstruation they are regarded as pollution.

Saptarshi Bairagi presented his paper entitled Heteronormativity and the Queer movement: A Netno-auto-etnographical analysis. Concept of gender is decide by the built, heart and the genetelia of an individual which includes identity and expression. Sexuality orientation is a person who is becoming some by heart. Sexual Identity is controled by genetelia that is if a person have vagina is considered as female, a person with penis is considered as female and if a person do surgery of genetelia is considered as trans sex. Gender Expression is considered as the appearance, organ, dresses, how a person appear before the world. LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Genderqueer, Queer, Intersex, Agender, Asexual and other queer identifying community). Gender Justice Movement in India: Stonewall Riot, Queer (1990), Calcutta (1999), Kolkata rainbow pride walk, Pre & Post Pandemic movements, Real to virtual.

Conclusion: Discrimination among these gender starts from home (transphobia), societal justice should be given to all gender, concept of activism & academia should be accepted and evolved.

Himanshi Tyagi paper entitled ‘A conflicting Inside – outside Space Around Women Folklore.’ Women folklore is regarded as subordinates alienated from major ideology. The basic ideology that was followed since ancient times but still some are prevalent to follow while some are no logic to carry on. In India, women what they have learnt from the ancient time teach their children to carry on further. Conclusion: women are home centric where they are supposed to do their work specifically of home issues while the men are supposed to do outside stuff. This is the practice that are followed.

Ayananshu Chakrabarti presented his paper entitled ‘An Anthropological Study of Sexual and Reproductive Health: Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Youth Unmarried Males of Kolkata, West Bengal, India.’ Sex is a state of physical, emotional, mental & social well being in relation to sexuality. Bench Mark Programmes of RH Programs are: The Safe Motherhood Initiatives (SMI), 1987; International Conference on Population Development (ICPD), Cairo, 1994; World Conference on Women (WCW), Beijing, 1995. This study includes 161 individuals and preferred convenient sampling. Data collecting was done which includes In-depth interview, Questionnaire, Case study. Various outcomes of the study are: Less youth knew about the fertility behavior; Most of the information is collected from the internet; Mostly shared with friends; Most youth are from school (secondary school level); 92% masturbate by having romantic ideas. Conclusion: Inclusion of sex education from secondary school level. Joint discussion on RH issues. Mutually agreed premarital sex. Liberal social environment freely talk on sexuality.

The last speaker **Ayushya Singh** talked on ‘Understanding the Role of Masculinity in defining the Accessibility of Public Transport.’ Accessibility to public transport guarantees equal opportunity, freedom and sustainable development of all. Fear and anxiety of personal safety play a decisive role in greater fear of crime among women. Greater role of the social institution that perpetuate and maintain the gender-inequality and gender-biasedness. Mobility has always been attached to power and privilege, with unequal access to it for several sections of society. Certain Outcomes: Gender-biasedness of transport agencies/institutions towards specific needs of women.; Spatial expression of Patriarchy; Understanding exclusion of women in the context of Masculinised Public spaces; Women fear of crime essentially a fear of victimization by men.; Women need to establish their claim over the public domain. Conclusion: Gendered construction of spaces, Masculine aggression, Gendered patterns of mobility limits the access of public transport for women. Greater emphasis on the complex relationship between women’s fear of crime and gendered social relations.

Parallel Session 5: Power of Politics

The session was chaired by Prof. P Venkata Rao and Co- Chaired by Dr. Prashant Khattri. In total 4 papers were presented in this session.

The session started with greetings and salutations placed by co-chair Dr Prashant Khattri. All the speakers of the session were addressed by him. Dr. Khattri moderated the entire session and the guidelines of the session were discussed prior to its commencement. This session was divided into two segments, first was the paper presentation by all the speakers with 15 minutes given to each, and second was the discussion of all the papers in the end.

The first speaker, **Prof. Anjali Kurane** presented her research on *“Caste diversity profile in corporate sector”*. She provided a background of how conventionally anthropologists categorize societies on the basis of the degree of unequal access to advantages, into three kinds- egalitarian, rank and caste/class society. She stressed on the Indian context and highlighted that stratification observed here has unequal access to economic resources, power and prestige. *In this limelight this research aimed to study the nature, extent and trends of caste diversity in the corporate sector.* She talked about how Hindu upper castes people have more advantages in terms of festival celebration and only those belonging to the same caste can participate in these rituals performed in the office which also transfers workload to others. She then briefed about quantitative findings where in religion wise Hindus dominated and then followed by Buddhists, caste wise Upper caste dominated, followed by SCs and OBCs and absence of STs. She also pointed that the recruitment process though dominated by HR selection also includes recruitment by caste based reference but in small numbers. She also discussed about the various parameters for discrimination that did include caste/class differences. Many asserted stating ‘No’ as their answers for it but there was a significant number that stated ‘May be’ as the answer which was stressed by her. She asserted that even though people claim they don’t entertain discrimination, but in reality the findings show a different picture altogether. She concluded that the research evidently showed less caste diversity at a private space in Pune city and absence of STs, cases of discrimination based on caste, religion, gender and language. She also said how these corporate sectors usually pretend about caste discrimination and tend to refuse to provide information in it and there are cases where many belonging to backward classes hide their identity due to inferiority complex. She also stressed on how caste is followed at both personal and professional level in corporate sectors and the above were also few reasons that limited the study.

The second speaker, **Dr. Chakraverti Mahajan** presented his paper on *“Aftermath of an Armed Conflict: Everyday Nationalism and Hindu- Muslim Relations in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir”*. Dr. Mahajan initiated his deliberation by explaining the geographic location of the area of study, ‘Doda’, through three visual maps entailing how in 2016 the Doda region was bifurcated into three districts. He began with a lucid description of a narrative that happened on 18th August 2015, in the Bhagwa village of Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. He talked about the event in which a large number of students from the government of high secondary school took a protest

march to reach the office of Deputy Commissioner in Doda town. These students were against a teacher who stopped them from singing the national anthem in the school. He stated that the *attempt of the paper is to show how the 'aftermath' has enduringly changed the way Hindu and Muslims relate to each other in a plural milieu at the level of local and every day*. Aftermath here is the nature of interventions on the part of the state and its capillary apparatus in the name of development and reconstructions and its bearing on the local and the everyday. He highlighted that communalization and socialization processes in education, language, and food have shown shifts in practices. He explained that the processes of militarisation and communalization of public spheres continuously shape religious identity politics and are urging forces for everyday violence in the area of study. He discussed the work of Fox and Miller to put forward the arguments of how everyday nationalism is also manifested by individual choices, for instance how someone is schooled. He discussed further how the narrative that paper brought in is a vivid portrayal of how sense of nationality is ingrained in students through politicization of children at young age. He addressed the question of, how early religious identity is learnt. He mentioned Latika Gupta's work in Delhi to highlight how children at a young age of four years identify their religion and develop the sense of separateness from other groups. He referred to his other papers to point out how there are also shifts in food habits, language, shrinking of religious spaces, and change in how people relate to each other. He concluded that in a situation where everybody's religious identity determines their loyalty towards their particular nation-state, everyday nationalism becomes a salient identity here, in specific to Doda region the decrease in militancy led to re-emergence of political actors who brought in development discourse as an antidote to insurgency which gained momentum. He said in a nutshell the paper addresses interactions between local ways of life that are shaped due to militarisation and communication and how there is emergence of new religion based identities' movements and thereby put forward his *final argument* as to how this interplay of forces has led to the convolution of everyday violence as a defining feature in the region.

The third speaker, **Dr. Beishamayum Deben Singh** presented his paper on the '*Civil society movement in Manipur, India.*' He initiated his presentation by introducing civil society with the definition given by WHO were in a civil society Referred to the space for collective action around shared interests, purposes and values generally distinct from government and commercial for profit actors. He addressed how the role of civil society is very crucial in contemporary world which take a preferred repressive policies of state and also hold as a protective mechanism against social unrest and conflict. He explained in order to address the failure of the state to meet the goals and needs in terms of development and peace facets as well as content of the people's voices lead to such emergence of civil societies. He argued that civil society are bodies that are significant to contest, and challenge state power. He stressed how in his area of study of the research work the emergence of civil societies is a decadal journey and are vital to address public indifference against the morality of state power. He problematized the issues of insurgency, social and public unrest, issues of border and corruption. He discussed one of the major protests is on human rights violations perpetrated by the armed forces. He further discussed elaborately

about some of the important civil society organisations in Manipur that are very active and responsive to such insurgencies and hold a protective mechanism against state prejudice. He concluded by stating how important these organizations are in terms of providing immediate relief, gearing up reformative transformations by defending collective interests and promoting participation. He stated that these civil societies can influence decision making and challenging prejudices in state.

The last speaker, **Krishna Kant Yadav** presented his paper on the '*Panchayat Raj and the changing tribe-caste relations in a Rajasthan village*'. He introduced his area of study and his participants first; and delineated that Bhils of Rajasthan share a distant relation with caste groups in the past and but now are experiencing shifts in their relationships due to livelihood patterns as well as state interventions in context of the area also being a scheduled fifth area. He highlighted that the advent of Panchayati Raj and extension of PESA in these scheduled areas have brought tribal community in close interaction with caste groups which is seen in village space, market area as well as Panchayat offices. He said that the role of a Panchayat office is very vital in shaping everyday life and politics in a tribal village. He discussed his methodology wherein he collected the data during anthropological fieldwork that was conducted by the department of Anthropology University of Delhi in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. He captured the data using in-depth interview methods and life histories of sarpanch, up-Sarpanch were crucial for research findings, which also included visitations to gram Panchayat offices in order to observe the interaction between Bhils and caste groups inside the office dynamics. He explained the *concept of hegemony* which he used to understand the relation between the two groups that were Dangi and Menariya as the dominant caste groups in the village who practiced and legitimized the power of the Bhils who belonged to the Schedule Tribe. He also mentioned Foucault and took his idea of understanding power relations to analyze any society where differences exist. He deliberated upon his findings which showed interpersonal relations at the level of domestic and political spheres where this concept of hegemony is portrayed. He talked about how in the area of study, temples signified their stratified relations, the distribution of agriculture land also signified power where in most of the irrigated land was in the hands of caste groups and he also talked about the economic dependency of Bhils on the caste group who also worked as agricultural laborers in their field people belonging to dominant castes. He also mentioned how people from scheduled caste live far off in the village periphery from the village's core area where dominant castes live. With all his observations he concluded that the dominant caste groups Dangi and Menariya strongly assert their caste identities to differentiate between tribal communities but the Bhils either identify or denote them as Gameti Jati or use other counter narratives advocated by the new emergent political party called Bhartiya tribal party (BTP).

Round Table

Round table on ‘anthropology, towards an integrated paradigm’ was conducted with panel members Prof. Sabit Acharya, Prof. Subhadra Channa, Prof. S.L. Malik, Prof. Dwipen Bezbarua, Prof. Vijaya Prakash, Prof. Mitashree Mitra, Prof. Ranjan Gaur, Prof. P.R. Mondal and Dr. Naresh Kumar Vaid.

Prof. Basa began the session by introducing the theme of the session ‘anthropology, towards an integrated paradigm’. He mentioned that while in theory ‘holism’ is considered as a trademark of anthropology, in practice the discipline is disintegrating which both a sign of both progress and concern. Prof. Acharya reiterated that anthropologists try to understand the humanistic aspects of other culture by observation. Prof. Malik mentioned that we all dream a holistic anthropology and goes further to say that in his personal opinion integrated anthropology is a reality. Prof. Channa emphasized that a human has several dimensions like social, physical, cognitive etc. As one person can’t study all the aspects, anthropologists should collaborate to study humans holistically. Prof. Prakash discussed about paleoanthropology and talked about Indianan pre historic contribution in global culture. Prof. Gaur extended the talk on paleoanthropology and pre-history. He further exclaimed that anthropology as a discipline self-introspect and renews itself. Prof. Mondal talked about nutritional anthropology and discussed about how food and diet patterns are evolving due to forces like economy, globalization etc. He further stressed on integration of various dualities in anthropology. Dr. Vaid drew an analogy between brain and anthropology. Brain receives the pain from all of the body but not feel pain by itself. Similarly, anthropology synthesizes from every other subject, but no anthropologist synthesizes anthropological knowledge.

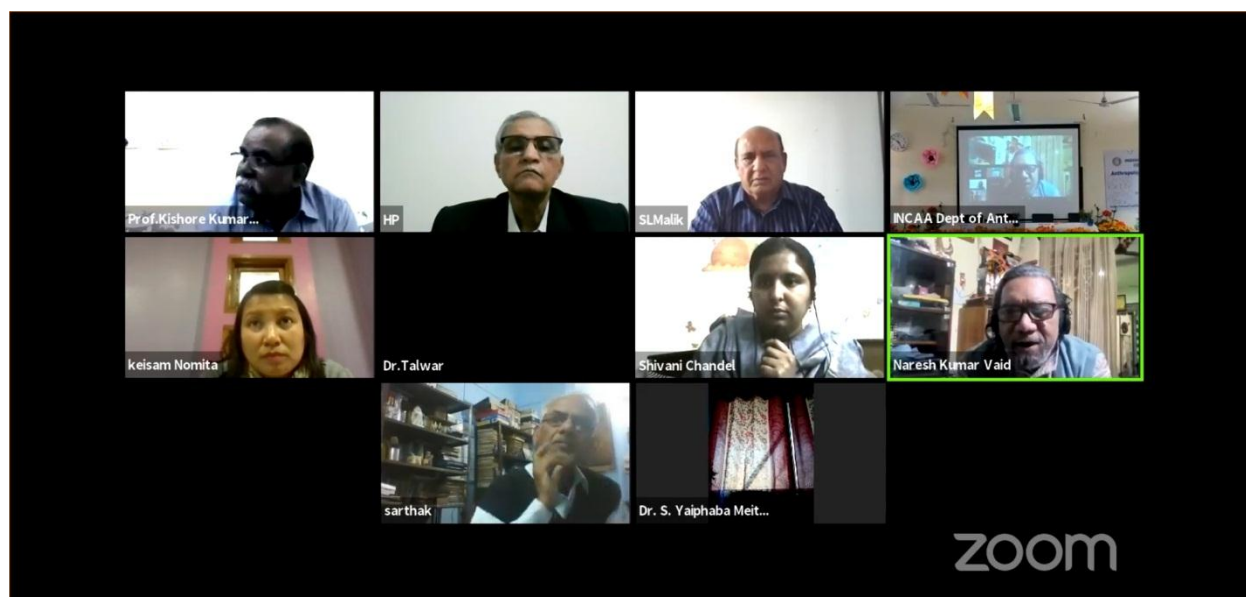


Photo: Panel members and participants

Scientific Session 2

Scientific Session 2 had five parallel sessions. A brief summary of all the five sessions is given below.

Parallel Session 1: Physical and Mental Health: Issues of wellbeing

This session was Chaired by Prof. Sarthak Sengupta and Co-Chaired Dr. Sanjenbam Yaiphaba Meitei.

Nandini Ganguly the first speaker of the session discussed about the trends of utilization of antenatal care services among Lodha and Birhor mothers (292 mothers, aged between 15 and 44 years) residing in the district of Jhargram and Purulia in West Bengal respectively and the association between different factors and utilization of such services. According to the researcher, the utilization of ANC services (receiving ANC especially from doctors) was found to be lowest among scheduled tribe women and hence, a comprehensive assessment of factors that affect inequity in maternal health outcomes among scheduled tribe women (especially PVTGs) is necessary to understand why this population is less likely to receive or accept maternal health care services. The researcher used descriptive statistics to calculate the frequency of socio-demographic characteristics and utilization of ANC services and chi-square test to assess the association between different socio-demographic characteristics and utilization of ANC services. The researcher informed that a few women completed the entire ANC course and family pressure was one of the reasons. Nandini Ganguly, then, revealed that 76.7% of the participants received antenatal care services. Also, age, family type, education level, total number of pregnancy, parity and women autonomy (freedom to availed health facility) were significantly associated with use of ANC services among Lodha participants ($p \sim 0.05$), whereas, in case of Birhor participants, no significant association has been observed between any of the socio-demographic characteristics and use of ANC services. Apart from these factors, some other factors like, place of residence, availability of transport facility, physical condition of connecting roads and distance to sub centre from place of residence have a significant bearing on the utilization of antenatal care services.

Keisam Nomita presented his paper to acknowledge the body image as an emerging social issue in Manipur. According to the researcher, no work has so far been taken up in this state. She explained the main purpose of this study to identify the impact of age and residence of women on their ideal body image in terms of multidimensional body self-relation scores of Manipuri women, India with the primary sample of 388 Manipuri women. The researcher used a well-validated Multidimensional Body-Self Relations Questionnaire (MBSRQ) as tool of the study and its scores were ascribed by the two-important predictor's viz., age and residence. Then, she interpreted the results of the study, saying that body image is frequently shaped during late childhood and adolescence but body dissatisfaction can affect people of all

ages but it is more prevalent in midlife, as young adulthood, of women. The perception and craving of the individuals particularly women on ideal body image is certainly linked with their ageing process. On average, older adults report feeling younger than their actual age and feeling younger than one's chronological age and feelings of satisfaction about age are thought to be positive reflections of the aging process. It may be due to the strong association of body image with age as it develops throughout the lifespan because of individual experience, cultural norms and cues, physical appearance and changes in the body, and relationships with other parameters like maintaining beauty and youthfulness. The outcomes of the current study on the association between body image and residence, reveal that the superior scores of multidimensional body-self relations being attributed with urban women than that of their rural counterparts.

The last speaker of the session, **Fatimazahrae Moutia** talked about her paper that aims at the interrogated operations of power, systems of oppression, and possibilities for agency and political change can be achieved through the body. It aims also to represent the most recent approaches of dealing with the body Foucaultian biopower and constructionist approaches. Stating the definition of “body” by Chris Barker in his book "The body and the Social Theory", the researcher defines the concept of “Anthropology of Body” and explained that from an anthropological point of view and in an attempt to study the human body as a social and cultural phenomenon, we can work within the perspective of the three various structural levels: body as an artefact (modification), as a norm (disciplination) and as an idea (semiotization). The anthropology of the body engages itself within the first, structural level, in modification processes of a human body and its results. The human body can also be understood as an embodiment of social and cultural norms. Individuals are encouraged to manage their bodies and bodily functions so that they become eligible for social interactions. Then, the researcher explains Foucaultian biopower that refers to what he viewed as the dominant system of social control in modern Western society. Also, biopower is a useful concept for anthropology because it focuses on the body as the site of subjugation, and because it highlights how individuals are implicated in their own oppression as they participate in habitual daily practices such as the self-regulation of hygiene, health, and sexuality. Further, she focuses on the Constructionist Approach in which the body is viewed as one medium among others, where pressures for consonance between them are articulated through the symbolic practices of the members of the culture. Foucault's discussion of biopower has had a profound effect on anthropological representations of the body. Central to this theory is the concept of "surveillance," institutionalized through disciplinary techniques, resulting in the production of docile bodies. The recouperation of the female body and its politicization by feminist and from a different direction, a broadening of the anthropology and sociology of knowledge to include analyses of scientific texts have had a particular influence on the anthropology of the body and the kinds of questions asked about bodily representation and its relationship to practice.

Parallel Session 2:

The session was chaired by Prof. Jibon Kumar Singh and Co- Chaired by Dr. Dolly Florence.

Rukshana Zukshana, first speaker presented on title: From Mundane to the Sacred: Exploring Assamese Muslim Identity through Food. The speaker talks about how Personal Experiences with food brings about identity to a particular region. It is considered to be a symbol showing love, space and belonging. Food is governed by cultures. The most important aspect is nature and how nature determines the food we get. She talks about how COVID-19 was traced back to the food consumption behaviour of the Chinese communities and how it infected the entire world. Her paper was an auto-ethnographic study where she described about her personal identity as an Assamese Muslim and how the food habits was significantly different from the Muslims inhabiting other regions. Food starts from preparation to selection of every unique ingredient that is put into it to make it a meal. Here comes the concept of Regionalism within ethnicity. The purity and the sacredness of the food depend on the way it is being prepared. An example of how food varies from region to region is the very famous Mughlai dish Biryani which is made of 54 spices and on the other hand the similar dish is known as Yakhni Pulao but it is made of 10 spices as it is not widely available in Assam. Another concept related to food is the intent with which it is prepared and thus known as Niyat. Food comes with the concept of purity and pollution where it talks of taboo and the protocols that are being considered in the context of food. The process of making of food is usually done in the name of God which makes it sacred and the entire process is known as Patehah and then it is distributed and served as a form of blessing known as Niyaz or Tabaruk. The food is usually served to the kinsmen where the elder males are usually served first as a part of the patriarchal culture as a means of creating kinship relations. So she concluded that Assamese food culture is different from other regions as the Muslims residing there have migrated from other regions of the country. Food is typical to a place or a region and it is a cultural symbol denoting your identity and regional variations that exist between them.

Oinam Hemlata Devi, second speaker presented her paper entitled- A KAP Study on Entomophagy and Entomotherapy in North East India. This was a KAP study which is a method that guides the understanding of how knowledge influence attitudes and in turn thus influence practices. She talks about the symbolic ways of understanding food as put forward by Levi's Strauss's idea of Structuralism. She also puts forth how Marvin Harris's concept of materialism can be used for understanding political and practical aspects of food, power and benefit. Her study focuses on how food has an impact on the social structure and social organization of the communities. Here she talked about Entomophagy which is a very common practice of consumption of insects as food. This tradition is unique to communities in the North east and it carried forward from one generation to another. It states that how a community depending on its environment and its products, locality and the ecosystem surround them which may have either very rich or limited species. Food is a language symbolic to body, social hierarchies and culture,

it relates to diseases, health and economy. This food habit of entomophagy is not only a traditional delicacy but also an alternative food habit to food scarcity. But it is observed that these days due to globalization the local food habits have seen a shift to grandeur foods promoted by transnational corporations. This hybridity happened due to global processes and now these local food habits are getting restricted to the region and mostly used among the older generation. Thus she establishes from her study how food is a product of social construction. Globalization led to economic growth, inequality, mobility of people, idea about cuisine and nutrition. On the other hand she talked about Entomotherapy i.e. the healing with the rituals and practices of the belief systems used in North east India. The products of herbs, animal products and insects are the medicines being used and are a part of the popular and folk sector. It is not very common among the younger generations. She concluded on a note that human food and food habits are essential “good to eat and good to think” (structure-materialism) business benefitting everyone.

Third speaker, **Mitoo Das** talked about her paper entitled ‘We are What we Eat: Managing Identity (ies) through Food’. The speaker talks about Food being mundane in our daily lives influences our social and cultural life. Apart from that it helps us in construction of identity. She has done an auto-ethnographic study and a self-reflexive piece in order to understand the change in her food habits with change in her residential region. She quotes Claude Fissler where Food is being considered not only for nourishment purposes but also signifies and creates memories. It helps us know who we are and who we become. The approach to research and writing about personal experiences helps us to understand cultural experiences. The methodology of auto-ethnography includes autobiographies, stories, narratives, etc. Narratives are a way to explore the personal element of food. The speaker being born in Assam identifies herself with the Ahomiya Food Culture and considers it to be a part of her ascribed status where having non vegetarian food such as meat and fish were a part of everyday meal. Apart from that, rice, daal, varieties of saag, fermented pickles and bamboo shoots, Kanji lemon, chutney, traditional food cooked during special festival such as Bihu just not added to the nutritional value but also shaped her identity as an Assamese. But with the increasing disease burden and ailments people have started to shift from rice to roti with a decrease in the meat content and oily foods to improve the health conditions. Traditional sweets, various delicacies and proper meals are prepared during the festival Bihu. But after staying in Delhi for 21 years, the taste and the food habits for her have changed to a large extent. After getting married in Bihar she started having the regional food which had an impact on her food pattern and had changed her eating habits as well but gradually with time she started developing a taste and fondness for the regional delicacy. The original cultural food had now got reduced to a temporary regional food acceptance. The mundane ritualistic daily food which established her identity brought permanent changes over food. The speaker believes that we now opt for food which is easy to made and elaborate spreads or festival food is less made. So, there is an amalgamation of ascribed cultures and implementations from various other cultures which shape

Parallel Session 3: Anthropological Genetics

The session was coordinated by Dr. Suniti Yadav and was chaired and Co-Chaired by Prof. Rajni Rani and Dr. Gangandeep Kaur Walia.

The session started with the presentation of **Dr. Huidrom Suraj Singh** on “*Diabetes Mellitus: An anthropological perspectives*”. The presenter deliberated on Anthropological perspective on diabetes mellitus and gave a brief definition of diabetes and its types. Then, he presented a distribution pattern across urban-rural setting, sexes and its comparison in general population and also highlighted the importance of understanding mortality and morbidity not just due to diabetes but also the other co-morbidities. He explained prevalence of pre diabetes and diabetes (T2D) among the *Meitei* population of Manipur and also its comparison across the sexes. The need of understanding hypoglycemia as pre-diabetic condition was also discussed. Lastly, some key factors that triggers diabetes were given.

Dr. Harvinder Kaur conferred on “*Equalization of a head and Chest Circumference in Term of Symmetric and Asymmetric Small for Gestational Age Infants*”. The presenter started with a brief description on the rationale of the study, prevalence of SGA (Small for Gestational Age), comparison of symmetric SGA and asymmetric SGA and methodology. In conclusion, the presenter talked about the relevance of symmetric and asymmetric SGA with head circumference and chest circumference. She highlighted the importance of understanding the effect of early nutrition during the prenatal life. Lastly, she gave a conclusion that head and chest circumference reduced marginally with ages.

Parallel Session 4: Rural/Urban Transition

The session was chaired by Prof. Abhik Ghosh and Co- Chaired Dr. Twinkle Pal. There were 5 presenters in this session with various topics of their research on the theme of Rural and Urban transformation.

The first presenter was **Kiran Jyoti Kaur**. Her topic was ‘globalisation acculturation and changing traditional values’. Her study aimed to analyze the impact of globalisation and acculturation on the values of the people and how western culture has rapidly transformed the social values. In her study she uses observation primary sources for data collection and journal articles and media report as the secondary sources of data collection. She talks about the impact on food, languages, religion and identity from the globalisation point of view. She concluded her study as the process driven by mainly the technological development and the impact of process varies in different countries and in different sectors. cultural hybridization is observed as a result of increasing globalisation and there is a fear that such cultural merging may destroy the cultural variety present in society.

The second presenter was **Partha Sarthi Sarkar**. His topic was ‘Radio programs and cultural modification in the rural living towards urban transformation in Sundarban’. His study was based on the radio communication in parts of Sundarban. The radio programs have a great essence in providing some basics to the urban as well as rural living. It can be said that these radio communication and radio programs have shifted from urban to rural living nowadays.

The third presenter for this session, **R.Archana** presented her paper entitled ‘Changing labour and gender roles in rural southern Karnataka. Her study talked about a multicasite village in Southern Karnataka near rural area of Bangalore named Maralakunte. This village consists of various caste and according to that the division of labour has divided. But the main aspect she focused on is migration among the agricultural and non-agricultural workers in search of better standard of living. She quoted that with all her findings this can be said that ‘there is a strong association between caste, class, gender and labour.

The fourth presenter for this session **Thockchom Ursa** talked on ‘Substantial Role of rural communities for rural tourism development in Manipur. Her study beautifully depict the scenario of rural tourism in Manipur among the 6 selected tourist places. Those places are Leimaram, Sendra, Moirang, Loikoipat, Thanga and Khonjom. She uses closed ended questions as well as descriptive factors questions. Simple random sampling has been done and 68 local people from these selected places have chosen. She presents various pie charts and bar charts through which she shows various aspects influencing the rural tourism in Manipur for example the local economy, satisfaction with tourism and community development, community involvement, etc. She concluded her study by saying that the rural communities takes active participation in enhancing the rural tourism but the government should play its role of a stakeholder by providing better infrastructure and road connectivities.

The fifth presenter **Shivani** talked on ‘The cultural symphony: Music of the Bhil tribes of Dinkli, Udaipur, Rajasthan’. Her research depicted the cultural aspects of music in various manners. Her objective is to elucidate the music of bhil people and to capture the context within music embedded in their lives and to understand music in culture and culture in music phenomena as a means of people practicing it. She uses participant and indirect observation as a tool for data collection and use of structured and unstructured interview and audio-visual tools was also done to collect the data. She depicts the aspects of religion and devotion, festivals and tradition and marriage and music in her study. She concluded by saying that music brings out community solidarity and explains the importance of the internet in transformice cultural music through generations.

Parallel Session 5: Politics of power

This session was chaired by Prof. Romesh Singh and co-chaired Dr. Sampriya Panda

Sangeeta Das, the first speaker, talked on “Identity Crisis: The Process of Making of Ethnic Identities among the Karbis Living in the Plains of Assam”. The speaker emphasized upon how *Karbis* of Assam assert their identities through several processes. She focused on the historical triage of labelling Karbis based on colonial dictums as *Mikir* (which they consider as derogatory now) till 1976, which later moved to a self labelling of the community as *Amri* and *Dumrali*, the latter being the Plain Karbis and the prior the Hill Karbis. Though hill and plain distinction is primarily an administrative category, this has led to an ideology conflict between the two categories. As the Plain Karbis feel that post the formation of the Karbi Autonomous Hill district in 1951 has enhanced issues of identity crisis for the Karbis of the plains. The speaker states that Karbis of the plain assert their identity through the dimensions of culture, language, narratives and nomenclature. The narratives interplay with their own decided nomenclature based on historical and contextual nexus pertaining to the territorial distribution of the two groups. The Amri faction of people in the plains have derived their narratives from the dominant discourse of the hills in an attempt to posit themselves as a distinct category of the plain. While the Dumrali section of the plain has its own narratives. Similarly the ethnic demarcation is noted from dress, language, ethnic sloganeering, texts, books and images, festivals and symbolic kings. The speaker precisely talks of how this ethnic assertion is exercised more by the symbolic kings and student unions, rather than the masses in general who demand a ST (plain) status for the plain inhabitants and ST (hill) status for hill inhabitants. These ethnic markers have not only demarcated them from non tribals but also within their own community. She concluded by stating that the Karbi identity is not in threat per se but the privileges attached with being a Karbi is not fully enjoyed by the one's residing in the plains.

Second speaker, **Haidamteu Zeme** presented the paper entitled “The Necessity of Archiving the Local: Writing Memory, Imagining Naga.” The speaker puts forth a work based on the secondary sources evident with the historical material concerning the Nagas where she talks of how a lot of non-Naga writing about what a Naga is or could be is prevalent and calls for the need of the natives to assert what they mean when they call themselves Naga. She does not dismiss the pre-existing research on the same, and hopes to understand if within this conglomeration of records, there is evident a local voice. Take for instance, the voice of Namkia from the Zeme community in Ursula Graham's field notes, or the voice of Doketsa (Angami) in sculptor Marguerite Milward's diaries. She traces instances such as these in two anthropological writings: Ursula Graham Bower (1937-46) and Marguerite Millwards (1935-38), as well as take into account writings from within the Nagas, especially Temsula Ao and Ninilungalang's works, to build her argument about the representation. In a factual declaration the speaker states that, although the etymology of the term has been traced from Ptolemy writings in AD 150 to the Burmese word Naka i.e., the people with ear holes/pierced ears, it has been well understood that the term first

originated from outside. She mentions that although in 1929 the memorandum submitted to Simon commission, the people agreed to this label, yet even today how many people within the community struggle to understand their position. Thus, she urges the need to know who the Nagas are and how do they identify themselves through the archives of memory of the locals, their words, and their identity and not merely through a textual prism.

Asoora VT talked on “Augmentation on Ethnic Art: A Case Study from Wayanad, Kerala.” The speaker talks of the changing way of life of *Thachanadan Moopan* and various dimensions of their identity crisis. Thachanadan Moopan is one of the Schedule Tribe Communities of Kerala. This matrilineal, agrarian community is distributed in Wayanad district of Kerala. It is observed that the community has more augmented to their ethnic arts (performing). She mentions how with the fast moving world the life of tribals is undergoing a fast social transformation that tends to affect various aspects of their life. The community faces an identity crisis on: individual, group and community level. She states that the performing arts has two aspects of performance, one being the ritualistic and other being the entertainment. The latter is undergoing a fast change depending upon occasions where it is called for. The changes rest in form of songs, makeup etc, these are taken up to catch pace with the time and so that they do not run obsolete from the public eye and hence this is leading to an identity crisis within the community. It persistently creates a sentiment on self-assertion and visibility among the community, when the ritualistic aspect of the art is maintained and how this ethnic art has a predominant role in their survival, is a takeaway from the paper.

Suramya Pushan Dasgupta's paper entitled “A Bricolage of Expressions: An Art in Hiding and an Aesthetic Ritualized.” Deriving itself from Levi Strauss' ideas of Bricolage and ethno aesthetics, the speaker tries to open a purview of aesthetics that are defined by the people of Ze-Mnui. It is a reflexive take on how the speaker as an outsider tries to collect the emic description of what art, beauty and aesthetics mean to the people. He mentioned that his study also aims to broaden the domain of Aesthetics in order to acknowledge the many rhythms and nuances of daily life and ritual. It tries to interconnect the indigenous aesthetic found in the local landscape and soundscape. Thus, it employs a 'bisensorial' approach to interpret and delve deeper, into the world of patterns, shapes, gradients and resonances. He strengthens his case by mentioning how the entire village was situated at a slope and thus the spatial arrangement of things in the village came across as aesthetics running across in a pattern among the people of this community. He also mentions the instance of a *Morung* aesthetic based on reasoning where on the left side the monkey skulls adorned the walls while the right side of the room had skulls of other animals but not monkeys, and all the beds placed away from the left side. Thus, many instances like these as the speaker mentioned stressed upon the presence of an aesthetic in daily lives that needed to be looked upon, away from what we understand of art and aesthetics. He rightly called it as art in hiding.

Shivani Ghosh presented her talk on “Deconstruction of ethnic Identities.” The speaker brings to fore the challenge of defining a 'tribe' and its concept being moulded into various conceptions but

not of how locally it can be asserted. She also states that the constitution has limited the definitional aspects of tribe to: backwardness, shyness, geographical isolation; which doesn't tend to provide any clear criteria of this definition. The debate about the conflict of identities rests with speakers' assertion of how the classification of tribals has a derogatory connotation jeopardizing their participation and furthering a stigma towards them. The lack of proper implementation of government plans for them along with depleting their direct use of natural resources, is a concern. This paper generally undertook this concern of issue of identity crisis among the tribals as for instance she states that how *Bhotiyas* are a mixed group of smaller groups who assert themselves differently as *Jads* or other. She talks of elementary aspects of ethnic identity deconstruction: religion, education, health issues of tribals, ecology and development, exploitation by the state. She intensifies these instances through examples such as Car Nicobar Model, AFSPA and issue of sanitization and Covid-19. She argues that this deconstruction is mediated through influence of the media, a push for global identity and an ongoing parallel assimilation of these people.

Day 2

Day two resumed with the more than 130 presentation on different themes which included **Physical and mental health: issues of wellbeing; Food, culture and Nutrition; Anthropological genetics and wellbeing; Rural/Urban Transformation-** tribal education in south Karnataka, impact of livelihood diversifications in Telangana, Rural urban transformation among the Garo people, Impact of urbanization on the tribal population in Guwahati, Co-habitation of urban spaces and health and wellbeing of Nepali migrants.; **Religious Diversity-** theories of animism, pir reverence among Muslim gujjars, life cycle rituals of Noila, witchcraft among the tribes, religious identity among dawoodi bohras and religion and its role in shaping different social institutions.; **Demography and maternal health-** morality statu, preterm birth, socio-demographic profile of the yadav, bio-social determinants, demographic data and its applicability, preference of male child affects and maternal health and taboos in food practices.; **Crime, criminals and forensics-** contextualizing inheritance of criminality, forensic anthropological applicability, gold standard in criminal investigation, stature estimation from digit lenth, radio carbon dating and study palmar main lines.; **Tribal world and challenges-** Socio economic status of phanse pardhi tribe, development of rabha tribe, issues of St in north east India, policy paralysis and social injustice.; **Prehistoric Culture-** Neolithic settlement pattern of southern Kashmir, demystifying the Egyptian mummy, investigation of human skeletal remain, megalithic tradition among the karbi's of Assam, environmental archaeology, time keeping device of the early kuki realm.; **Climate change, Disasters and sustainable development:** MGNREGA, development and sustainable practices, evaluating climate change concerns in coastal communities and sustainable development challenges in India.

Scientific Session 3

Scientific Session 3 had five parallel sessions. A brief summary of the five sessions is given below.

Parallel Session 1: Physical and Mental Health: Issues of Wellbeing

This session was chaired by Prof. Ranjan Gaur and co-chaired by Dr. Priyanka Rani Garg.

Heemanshu Aurora, the first presenter, explored an assessment of Health related quality of life and functional performance status among TB patients. The study features a sample size of 204 Pulmonary and Extra pulmonary TB patients from North West Delhi. Validated structured questionnaires and a non validated structured questionnaire has collected the required data. The process started with the detection of the disease and followed on through the period of treatment. The paper argues that the quality of life deteriorates at the onset of the disease and such factors as unemployment often complicates this further. However, the study finds that with treatment, there is a gradual increase in the health related quality of life. The study further appreciates the role of socio-cultural factors such as employment, education, income etc. in determining the

health related quality of life. The results were faced with the questions of considering nutrition and age as variables. The study would find the age group above 40 to be recovering faster and poor nutrition further complicating the situation.

Sayani Das discussed the burden of cognitive frailty among community dwelling rural elderly of West Bengal in India. The discussion points out how India is already a Greying nation and how it is important to care for the elderly. The study has a sample size of 404 participants above age 60 and are Bengali speaking Hindus. The study comes out with a direct link between frailty syndrome and such factors as age, Marital status, Educational Status, Occupational Status and socio-economic status in general. The paper intends to attract further studies and presses for the dire requirement to create awareness about and prevent cognitive frailty for the management of a better quality of life and nutritional status of the elderly. The paper received such suggestions as the requirement to take the variable of sex and nutrition.

Nivedita Som presented on how culture shapes body fat patterning and blood pressure levels. The study sets out with the hypothesis that ethnic factors can have influence over how communities perceive over-all health and food behaviors. The data is collected from Kolkata and Sikkim via two different cross-sectional studies with 150 participants from Kolkata and 160 from Sikkim. The informants belong to four different ethnicities as Marwari Hindus and Bengali Hindus from Kolkata and the Rai and Lepchas from Sikkim. With first hand narratives and opinions straight from the field and with validated questionnaires, the study concludes that ethnicity can decide how people feel about their own health status even when they can be clinically unhealthy. The discussions could bring out the specifics as how certain food items ethnic to these communities have a direct relationship with the levels of BP and body fat patterning. It could also suggest how considering emotional stress levels and the patterns of physical activity can further contribute to the results.

The fourth presentation was by **Jitin Jose**. He presented a review paper on 'Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders amongst nurses'. He discussed how nurses are at highest risk of WMSDs amongst healthcare workers. Statistics from the US and India are presented, along with established reasons for the same, namely long standing hours, lifting or assisting dependent patients, etc. COVID-19 has been identified as a contributor to the phenomena, not just due to increased work pressure, but also the changing place ergonomics, like PPE kits, which limit locomotion. Lack of awareness among nurses regarding occupational health and safety was also discussed. The presentation was concluded by Prof Gaur's suggestions to identify the stressor particular to nursing profession and identify the differential risk factors for male and female nurses, along with effects of yoga as a coping strategy. Dr. Garg also appreciated the discussion of contemporary COVID scenario, and suggested presenting the review more analytically.

Chonsing Shimrah, the fifth speaker, presented the findings from a pilot study conducted with 100 participants in Paltalk district, Haryana for her PhD. fieldwork on 'Impact of musculoskeletal disorders on quality of life among North Indian farmers'. MSDs create health,

psychosocial and financial burden, and farmers who work throughout the year with a huge input from physical labour are at risk of MSDs. Drawing from mean values of her data, she found a higher prevalence of MSDs among females than males. The major conclusion drawn by her was- more the number of body parts with pain, lower the quality of life. Prof Gaur suggested to have an equal representation of men and women during data collection, as the data in the pilot study was skewed towards women. He also suggested looking for relations between physique or somatotype and the development of MSDs. Dr. Garg also suggested using median along with mean when representing small data.

Last speaker for the session was **Ishita Chatterjee**, who presented a paper on 'Sarcopenia among Bediya male, Purulia, West Bengal', co-authored by Subhra Bhattacharya. Bediya is a Scheduled Tribe, traditionally snake charmers. Calf circumference and Skeletal Muscle Mass were used as indicators for Sarcopenia. The results suggest that occurrence of Sarcopenia may be related to muscle decline in males and fat increase in females. She concluded that the Bediyas are devoid of proper nutrition, diet and exercises. Prof. Gaur suggested considering levels of adiposity as well using skinfold measurements, as it can be an important interfering factor for sarcopenia. Dr. Garg also suggested analysing data to find out whether calf circumference can be a surrogate marker for sarcopenia in the community.

With thanking notes from Prof. Rajan Gaur, Dr. Priyanka Rani Garg and Prof. Benrithung Murry, the session was concluded.

Parallel Session 2: Food, Culture and Nutrition

The session was chaired by Prof. Morambika Mahapatro and Co-Chaired by Dr. Huidrom Suraj Singh

The *first speaker* of the session was **Suknaya G.** Her topic of presentation was “Anthropology of food, A sneak peek into the ethnic food culture of tribes of Kerala.” She described Food as part of culture, material culture, social structure, history, environment, as for example she described how life cycle ritualistic foods differ from one community to another. She claimed that forest communities depends upon forest produce, agriculture communities depends upon rice, grains etc. pastoral communities depends on milk and milk products. She described food as celebration of life rituals. She also claimed that food is often regarded as being as expressive identity and integral component of cultural heritage. She described Ethnic Food as food originating from a heritage and culture of an ethnic group who use their indigenous knowledge to procure local ingredients, plants and animal sources. She described food culture as primary need, shaping most of the human culture; the unique diet of all communities has been adapted to the material, cultural and social conditions. There is cultural diversity exists through decentralization in food diversity. She emphasized on why it's important to study food culture of the tribal communities. She claimed that ethnic food related studies are very less in documentation; indigenous

knowledge should be preserved and passed to next generation as it's in dialect, no script available for them.

The second speaker of the session **Kh. Gyanabati Devi** introduced her topic of presentation “Food, Culture and Malnutrition among Tribal Children in Manipur”,. She intended to highlight the implications of dietary practices among the traditional people of Manipur and the impact it has on children. She emphasized on the Kabui, an indigenous tribe from Manipur. The food habits of the Kabui people are related to existing cultural patterns and restrictions. This results in the health status of the children being affected adversely. The Kabui depend on locally sourced ingredients in their diet and have a great deal of knowledge about their environment. Sociocultural beliefs have great effect on the vulnerable people in the larger community, especially the children. Several studies illustrate that traditional practices of feeding children take precedence over universally approved health recommendations. Newborns are also affected. The mother's colostrum is believed to be harmful for a newborn, and thus the newborns are not permitted from having it. Instead they are fed alternatives. Infants are weaned at the end of three months after birth through a ritual ceremony on an auspicious day, where it is known that one should not wean infants at least not before six months. After a period of time, the infant is fed a large meal in a ritual which also consists of a wild bird. The Kabui hold the belief that the bird intentionally comes to be consumed by the child, and the bird meat will make the child active and healthy just like the bird. A lot of foods are held as taboo towards children. Different kinds of meat such as pork, beef, chicken and other birds are consumed by adults. But these animal sources of [protein are considered too heavy for children and would cause sickness in them. Similar belief is held over eggs and dairy products as well. This severely deprives children from necessary nutrients that are needed by them early in their lives. Some fruits are permitted to be had by children. However, citrus fruits, pineapples and many other fruits are not deemed suitable for children. This is why the prevalence of Vitamin C deficiency diseases is seen among them. Overall this large number of traditional beliefs towards dietary restrictions for children is being harmful for them, rather than being beneficial, despite the belief of the adults that these measures are for the benefit of the children.

Shrila Soren the third speaker for the session presented on “The Dynamics of food and food-related behaviour with respect to health among Bhils of Raghunathpura Village, Udaipur. Firstly, She introduced the Bhils, described Bhils as most populous tribe according to 2011 census, the concentration of the Bhils found in four states, namely, and Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan than, she described the number of the Bhil families in the setting as 57. she claimed that Bhils have taken characteristics of neighbouring communities due to intensive exposure. Most of the bhils are daily wage labourers, some are share croppers and some are having their own lands. She also claimed that the climate and weather of Udaipur affects the diet which includes a balance of hot and cold foods such as chaanch and spicy foods. Rice is not cultivated in the region, meat and eggs are being consumed. They cook using LPG

cylinder, they have the access to it, Chulha, makeshift hearths. They are having eco-friendly habits of consuming food, the food taboos are Bhils can accept food from Rajputs or Brahmins but cannot give them food in return, also Bhils cannot accept food from Muslims. In Ghavali festival they don't consume food of green colour. They believed one must not sit at the right of the chulha, one must not blow cooked food or can't touch with mouth. According to her, the food related behaviors is complex and is determined by the interplay of many factors such as social, economical, cultural, traditional, environmental. so this in turn affects the nutritional status of the Bhils, she claimed that Bhil culture and traditions are affected by modernization. Bhills follow traditional methods of preservation. Bhils are having diarrhea aproblems, joiijnt pains, and respiratory problems. Communicable diseases are kahsra, khuchar, badlawala, daad rog. common disorders are pilia, fever, pathri etc. humeral hot cold imbalance caused several disease like dast rog, pox, boils. They perceive this diseases as "garma ki birmari" and "sardiki bimari". There is a shift in choice of food from older to younger generations, so, alternatives have touched the traditional values and beliefs. so, she concluded as "social and cultural change shaped the food palate".

Eshani Bora and Karvileena Deka presented their paper titled "Kimchi: Its health benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic". Kimchi is a traditional dish, across both the Koreas: the North and the South. It first originated possibly during the Three Kingdom Period (37 BCE – 7 AD). Cabbage is the main ingredient for making Kimchi but other ingredients such as radish, cucumber, green onions, etc. are used. It is similar to the pickle used in the cuisines of India. Kimchi is a fermented condiment but there are variations which are fresh versions that are unfermented. Across Korea, there are over two hundred varieties of kimchi. It forms an important element of the identity of the Korean people. Even while clicking photographs, Koreans say "kimchi" instead of saying "cheese". Ms. Bora explained that this paper is based on secondary sources and not primary ones due to the distance of residence from Korea. However, Ms. Bora and Ms. Deka reviewed several literatures. Of these, the recent paper by J. Bousquet et al. (2020) titled "Is diet partly responsible for differences in Covid-19 death rates between and within countries?" was main stimulant behind their research. Bosquet et al. put forward a hypothesis that the low cases of Covid-19 may be related to the high consumption of fermented vegetables. This possibly affects the production of the Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme-2 (ACE2) by lowering it. The ACE2 enzyme is believed to be the main receptor of the Covid-19 virus in the lungs because the enzyme is present in the endothelial tissue of the lungs. This makes kimchi assume the role of a probiotic item since kimchi is fermented using different kinds of bacteria. Consuming kimchi may not be the only factor for the low mortality rate in South Korea. It may also have to do with the fact that how the Government of South Korea dealt with the pandemic. There are several steps towards the preparation of kimchi involving brining, mixing, adding spices and Ms. Bora went on to compare Kimchi with the German Sauerkraut and the Indian Pickle and cited other such examples of fermented vegetables consumed across several cultures. Making kimchi is a community process and brings people together. It is a symbol of

commonness between the two Koreas also. At the end of the presentation, the Chair of the session, Prof. Meerambika Mahapatro appreciated the paper and dubbed it as an interesting area of research.

Mercy Kipgen gave presentation on “Food and culture among the Kuki of North East India”. Ms. Kipgen started by introducing us to the discipline of Anthropology of Food and how studies on food have been a part of cultural studies in anthropology for a long time. Food studies have illuminated broad social processes such as politics, economics, etc. and proved to be an important arena for debating the relative merits of cultural and historical materialism versus structuralist and symbolic approaches. The Kuki tribe is an ethnic group consisting of several clans. The Kuki, on whom Ms. Kipgen has been carrying out her research, inhabit states across northeastern India, parts of northwestern Myanmar, and the Chittagong Hill Tract in south eastern Bangladesh. There are many rituals involving food such as Chang-Ai (where a person expresses gratitude to the Gods for surplus harvest over a decade), Sa-Ai (performed if a person kills a predatory animal in the wild), Daiphu (associated with slash and burn farming technique), Changlhakou (which involves imparting gratitude to the spirit of the paddy field for abundant harvest), Cha’ng Kut (which is a post-harvest festival), Mim Kut / Tharlak Kut (related to maize harvest), Chawn le Han (celebrated, to commemorate bountiful harvest, through feasting and sports), and Al (a celebration of an individual’s great contribution to society). There is also a pineapple festival. And grand feasts are also organised on many other occasions such as naming rituals, death rituals, marriage, Christmas, Easter, etc. The Kukis abide to the restrictions mentioned in the Old Testament of the Bible. There are also customary offences associated with food for which reparations are paid by giving a feast. Ms. Kipgen concluded by stating that changes in food habit can take place among the people due to various reasons. These changes can be morally dictated, socially desirable, scientifically sanctioned, or even forced due to physical changes. The changes due to globalization and modernization are bringing influences of Chinese, Thai, Korean, and other Indian cuisines into the Kuki community. People are leaning towards fast food (junk food) more, as pointed out by all sets of generations.

Parallel Session 3: Anthropological Genetics and Wellbeing

The session was chaired by Prof. Arun Bandopadhyay and Co-Chaired Dr. Abhishikta Ghosh Roy.

Dr. Ekata Sinha presented on the importance of understanding genetic polymorphism in combating tuberculosis infection and immune markers. Genetic polymorphism can provide the resistance from the diseases by reducing susceptibility.

Dr. Gagandeep Kaur highlighted the importance of using Mendelian randomization as the statistical tool to understand the causal effect of genetic polymorphism. The causal effect of

genetic polymorphism with respect to genetic risk score was also discussed the findings also suggested that triglycerides may causally effect glycemic traits and needs to be addressed by public health practitioners.

Miss Neha Singh presented on the importance of understanding the role of global DNA Methylation in cognitive impairment. The results of the study highlighted that hypomethylation is implicated in CI and the cause effect nature of methylation needs to be explored

Miss Ruchita Jalal presented on the genetic association of 3 SNPs with substance abuse (tobacco consumption in India) through GWAS. The study highlighted association of 2 SNPs of which both belonged to CHRNA5-CHRNA3-CHRNA4 gene cluster, which is associated with tobacco chewing alone.

Miss Sonam Mishra presented on the sensitivity to PTC among Garasia of Mount Abu. As a classical model of anthropological genetics the study results showed that almost one-fourth of participants were non-tasters and the thresholds increased with tobacco consumption.

Ms. Khushbu Kumari presented on the screening of hemoglobinopathies and detection of β -thalassemia carriers in a population of Gujarat. One-tenth of population presented with hemoglobinopathies. Beta thalassemia carriers were more common as compared to HbD Punjab heterozygous variants.

Ms. Beliya Laxmi Devi presented on the relation between stress and diabetes among Meiteis of Manipur. She highlighted the association between these two factors. However, the cause-effect nature of the association was unexplored.

Parallel Session 4: Rural/ Urban Transformation

The session was chaired by Prof. S. Gregory and Co-Chaired by Dr. Mitoo Das

First speaker **Sambaiah Aerukala** presented on Impact of livelihood diversifications on Rural/Urban Transformations in Telangana: An Anthropological Study. The speaker focused with livelihood pattern and increase of livelihood diversifications among the current livelihood activities and it's sustainability opted by the Kuruma Community of Telangana. He emphasized on how livelihood diversification has become an important element of rural/urban transformation. He talks of the changes in the occupational shifts of the Kuruma community who were originally a sheep rearing community that also indulged in blanket weaving from the wool which were then traded in the nearby town and cities. And also the importance of these blankets in their community during migration and cold times. He explained on how the Kuruma are now moving out of their community to nearby cities and town for different jobs which have reduced their reliance on traditional occupations. The speaker explores various internal and external

factors that influence the Kuruma to shift and adopt other livelihood activities which includes the limited and shrinking grazing lands, and only a number of people own grazing lands, the constant struggle of migration for those who don't own any grazing lands, along with their sheep herd.

Second speaker **Prithiraj Mahanta** presented a paper entitled 'A Study on Rural-Urban Transformation, Challenges and Issues of Sustainability Among the Garo Tribe Of Langkona Village In Assam.' Prithiraj emphasized the importance to understand the present status of tribal communities in India who have been going through a number of major transformations since Independence. Prithiraj gave a brief introduction about the Garo Tribe. He focused on understanding the various aspects of socio-cultural and economic life, mostly on the material culture of the Garo people of Village Langkona. He aims to identify the issues and challenges that lead to the transformation in people's tradition and talked on how the data have been collected through schedules, household surveys, observation and unstructured interview among the residents of the Village.

Adita spoke about how their study is mainly focused in understanding the material culture and how their livelihood had changed from shifting cultivation to settled agriculture. She talked about the people now as settled agriculturist adopted modern implements and tools. The people of Langkona village left hunting practices as the forest surrounding were restricted but they still continue fishing with the use of nets which was once done through poison from the natural forest. She discussed on how the people have adopted modern dressing and traditional Assamese clothing, where only a few own the traditional clothes which are worn during significant festivals. Adita stressed on the dramatic change brought upon by conversion to Christianity, that the people now rarely consume rice wine changing it more easily available alcohols, use of traditional musical instruments and dances have been restricted to only major festivals. The residents of the village left their traditional occupation and many people go to the nearby Guwahati city for better job opportunities, education, etc.

Next speaker **Ritwik Rupam Sarma**, talked on 'Impact of Urbanization on the tribal population living at the fringe of Guwahati City: A study on the Sonapur Revenue Circle.' The speaker discussed the three basic concepts of urbanization, fringe as transitional blended zone, tribe and the difficulty of defining a tribe and the problem of giving it a generic definition. He focuses on the impact of changes brought upon by urbanization that has radically transformed the economic, cultural and demographic features of the Tribal population of the fringe areas of the city. He give an introduction of the has three villages where his study was carried out, Nazirakhat, Patarkuchi, Karchia of Sonapur Revenue Circle, and the occupational pattern present in these region. The corporatization and capital investments, growing consumerism, development of the hospitality industry and real estate industry in Guwahati, has expanded to the Sonapur region bringing a resort culture, with growth of a number of resorts and dhabas are owned not by the locals but run by outsiders from Guwahati. The speaker discusses how the tribal people living in these villages who were the original inhabitants or owners of these lands are now workers in these dhabas and

stalls that are low paid jobs. He talked about the people from outside, such as the people from Guwahati that are buying lands from these villages for residential and commercial purposes, taking a big role in expanding urbanization and encroaching upon these lands. He emphasized that these changes that have been brought upon by urbanization is continuing to change the primary identify of these tribal communities.

Shankarjyoti Saikia delivered his paper on ‘The practices of care and cohabitation of urban spaces: An anthropological study on the relationship between humans and stray animals of Malkaganj (Delhi).’ The speaker gave brief information on his study that is incomplete and the conclusion is hazy and the methodology on how it has been done through convenient sampling because of the ongoing pandemic Covid-19. The speaker focuses on understanding interlocutor’s notion of Care and Cohabitation of urban space and to explore care-cohabitation nexus materialize in everyday life. He discusses a number of existing literature on human-dog relationship, and talked on various aspects including possible fear of dogs, dog and kinship, philosophers view, psychological studies, etc. He presented his findings on interlocutors view on care of strays that include; feeding-regularly or intermittently, providing clothing-rug/clothes for winter and sleep, sleeping-allowing it to sleep wherever it wants to, hygiene-allowing stray animals to manage on their own, mobility-allowing them to freely move about, expression-accepting animal sounds and their behavior. Generally people do care for stray animals when considering dogs and cows for a various number of reasons such as; sacred, safety and security, astrological significance, sense of attachment and passion, etc. He concluded that there is some kind of familiarity where people want to take care of stray but not on a collective level as the urban space is a place where people show indifference to one another.

Last speaker **Ranjeeta Adhikari** spoke on ‘Health and Wellbeing of Nepali Migrant Workers in Darjeeling.’ The speaker started with talking about the migrant Nepalese population in Darjeeling, on why they prefer to come to Darjeeling, they spoke the same language and share a similar background. She focused on understanding the socio-cultural and economic aspects of the life of migrants impact their health and how they negotiate on everyday basis the disadvantages and problems with regard to health, among the Nepali migrants working in Darjeeling. She discussed a brief history on how these migrant community have been made possible to come and go, the free movement of the people between the two countries. She then talked about the methodology on how her study has been done as a micro-ethnographic work where interview, participant observation and case studies were used to collect data among the Nepalese community who have come from Nepal to Darjeeling. The speaker emphasized that the migrants were not literate and performed unskilled labor and divided the migrants into different types, seasonal migrants, permanent migrants, women migrants, student migrants, semi permanent migrants, temporary migrants. The migrants also aspire to have dual citizenship of both Nepal and India, so that they can get benefit of both the countries. She highlighted that these people mainly faces psychological issues like anxiety and depression as they are far from home and the pressure to make money and found some of the friends of the migrants have

committed suicides due to family pressure. The speaker emphasized on these psychological issues but the migrants were also suffering from seasonal flus, respiratory diseases, gout, etc. and most complain about chest, back pain and injury. She found that in cases of serious illnesses, they prefer going back to Nepal for treatment. She concluded that the migrants were found to be not aware of the long term affects of these psychological issues and even if they have knowledge about mental health they do not perceive it as a health issue, and felt that only the privileged has the luxury of being mentally ill.

Parallel Session 5: Religious Diversity

The session was chaired by Prof A. Chella Perumal and co-chair by Dr. Rukshana Zaman

First speaker **Svetlana Ryzhakova** discussed on “Theory of Animism and Practice of Spirit-Possession: an Ethnographic Study of lai-Haraoba (Manipur) and Daiva-aradhane (Tamilnadu), India” The speaker has emphasized upon the concept of animism and share her first experience when she first come to contact with an animist in the Kolkata. She explained the difference between old and new animism. The old animism assumed that animists were individuals who were unable to understand the difference between person and things. On the other hand in new animism, the term animism was readopted by various scholars, who began using the term in a different way, placing the focus on knowing how to behave toward other being, objects and things. She also mentioned few literature where Animism reconsidered like William McDougall’s “Body and Mind: A history and Defence of Animism” (1911), Kathrine Swancutt’s “Animism beyond the Soul”. The speaker tried to show the similarity between lai-haraoba and Daiva-aradhane. Both of them are from totally different geographical area of the India. But, she observed the presence of fractal character of a sacred entity and people are the medium in both the cases. Practice of haraoba and aradhane does not constitute a separate religious denomination. In both cases, of worshipping Meitei lai or Tulu daiva the idea of multiplicity is very essential: there are hundreds of them, and each combines both concrete and abstract feature. Both of the cases we can see a few animistic approach those are: first, the sacred reality have no particular and permanent image. Second, it is difficult to classify deities. Third, localization and proper jurisdiction are important. And fourth, within the territory of jurisdiction, all realities- animated landscape, human’s body, life and fate, day to day routine, any activity etc.- are strongly inter connected.

Next speaker **Subeno Kithan** talked on “A road to the heavenly realms- Understanding pir reverence among Muslim Gujjars of Jammu and Kashmir” The speaker explored pir reverence as part of the ‘discursive tradition’ of the people, reflecting on post structuralist view of Talal Asad and others of how Islam and Muslims need to be approached anthropologically. Speaker is looking specifically into the issue of the reverence among the pastoral nomadic community in Jammu and Kashmir, this paper explores the nuances within the pir reverence, the issue of cohesion as Gujjars and dissent as Muslim in their everyday lives. The Gujjars are the Sunni

muslims, belief in the Tawhid (one god), Shahada- which means ‘there is not god but God and Muhammad is His Prophet’. Pir reverence falls within their religious beliefs, though debated internally as well. Pir are addressed as *raasta*, *wali*, *allah ke pyare*; he may be dead or alive. Pirs are works as mediator. People believed that Allah, accept the prayer of pir and heal them of their sickness, good journey as well as their cattle’s health. Speaker has analyzed with structuralist paradigm, the Gujjar’s conceptualization of pir can be inferred as located between binaries- pir as a friend and foe; favored or not favored by Allah; healer or facilitator; dead or alive; ordinary or supernatural etc.. Such analysis negates the discursive elements which is needed to understand this particular practice of a pastoral semi-nomadic community which follows Islam. Here all the categories of Gujjars unconditionally agree on the supremacy of Allah and his ultimate existence. But the way they conceive this supremacy is done differently. In the conclusion, speaker has mentioned Pir reverence has approached by different ways among Gujjars, Some see it as sacred act, some disagree upon pir reverence and some stand in between. It is important to note that unlike many anthropologists Asad argues to understand islam by looking for the connectedness of the different manifestation of islam rather than looking for distinctiveness.

Gitanjali Panda presented her work titled “Life circle rituals of Nolia of Arakhakuda Village, Chilika Lake, Odisha” Here the speaker mentioned about the Nolia community who are fishermen in occupation. She has mentioned different life circle ritual activities performed by them. Life circle ritual is category of rituals that mark in the life cycle of a person, from one stage to another, from one role or social position to another over a time, integrating the human and cultural experiences with biological destiny: birth, reproduction and death. These ceremonies make the basic distinctions, observed in all groups, between young and old male and female, living and dead. This is through rites of passage that we are able to contemplate, to formulate and reformulate our ambivalent condition of animal and human. As the speaker mentioned that in the community there are few norms for the pregnant woman. They are not allowed to go to anywhere, they can only worship god not the goddesses. They don’t go to the hospital for the delivery of the children. ‘Mantra Kashari’ are hired for the delivery. But payment of the ‘Dhai’ depends on the gender of the child. There are few norms also during puberty like one have bath 7times in a day. Also few death rituals are there like sacrifice of the spirit. But now things are changing new generation people are not that much associated with the traditional rituals.

Mayank Prakash presented paper entitled “Witchcraft among the tribes of Jharkhand: Explorations of few Case Studies through Anthropological Lens” Speaker has emphasized upon the few ethnographic narration related to witch and witchcraft. He explained a narration on a Santhal boy named nirmal tudu of Bokhna, Jharkhand get abnormal in the night. So people think that it happens because of her aunt has done some black magic. They took help of the witch doctor to treat him. He also mentioned a few other narrations. In conclusion he said that belief of witchcraft is still there in the tribes of the Jharkhand. It is impossible to deny that witchcraft and other is not there.

Next speaker **Suryasnata Majumdar's** paper was on "Anthropological Study of Religious Identity among the Dawoodi Bohras of Kolkata" Like every other religions, Islam has many traditions and sects within it. These sects arise from differences in interpretation of the core teachings of Prophet Mohammad and who were the main disciples. All of them believe that Islam means submission, surrender, obedience and peace. It stands for complete obedience and submission to God and considers that to be the only way to peace and prosperity. The Dawoodi Bohras are a religious community and a denomination under the Isma'ili Shias, majorly business community who are into merchandise. Each and every aspect of Dawoodi Bohras fundamentally establishes or gives us a glimpse of how the religious identity is created among the Dawoodi Bohras. The religious identity of the Dawoodi Bohra Community is not only established through the rituals but also through their adherence towards religious leader, their traditional attire, the way they eat food, the faith towards the Pak Panjatan because they learn the prominent beliefs and moral values through the religious education and the beliefs are deeply ingrained in every aspects of their lives. In the Dawoodi Bohra Community, the concept of 'Khidmat' and 'Darza' plays a vital role. The members who work towards the betterment of the community are encouraged by honoring them with titles like Sheikh, Mullah etc. especially by the religious leader Syedna Saheb. Moreover, the members of the community are closely tied with each other, adhering to a similar set of beliefs, uplifting each other, protecting themselves from the external forces under the guidance of their religious leader Syedna Saheb, one of the most prominent figures of the Dawoodi Bohra Community. In such a community with a strong sense of —we-feeling along with strictly set boundaries, it is worth capturing the intersection of religion and identity

Swapna Wadmare presented her paper entitled "Religion of the Katkari tribe of Maharashtra". The speaker tried to explore the religion of the Katkari tribe. The study focuses on the Katkari tribe settled Raigad dist. of Maharashtra. The data was collected using ethnographic approach drawing on in-depth informal interviews with the key informant, quasi-participation observation, photography and audio. The Katkari followed the religious system where aspects of tribal God and Hindu deities intermingle to form a cogent religious system. The Katkari worshipped the gods on occasions of child-birth, marriages, death etc. the Religious specialist such as Bhagat, legends, etc. have also carved their niche in the local mindset through ages and act as link between the people and deities. The village is called is Borgaon village. It is caste dominant village and shows multiethnic groups. These are Maratha, agri, dhangar lohar, kolam etc., tribal deities as well as hindu gods are seen in the village. Katkari believes in polytheism. The changes take place among the tribe reflects the process of sanskritization. The position of the bhagat is not hereditary and can be acquired by apprenticeship from previous Bhagat. The recent kirtan groups exist in harmony with the local religious set up and bring new lessons in living and are slowly gathering a steady following.

Tiatemsu Longkumer talked on "Indian Anthropology of Religion: Between Theory and Praxis." The anthropological study of religion in India has established its ground in dissecting

the cosmological as well as magico-religious beliefs of the tribal communities. Religious Diversity in India and its social significance is often construed as an ethnographic entity which stems out of its contextual difference. In doing so, the philosophical aspect of religion which lies between theory and praxis is often neglected making it hard to put both 'Hinduism' and 'Tribal religions' under one Indian religious canvas. He has mentioned few work of the scholar Franz Boas, Sapir, Emanuel Kant about the relation between language and culture. In India religious study is more magic religion studies. There should be counter narrative to understand theoretical aspect. Anthropology should focus on both historical and philosophical aspect.

Last speaker **Praveen Kumar Patel's** paper was on "Religion and its role in shaping different social institutions among the Bhil tribe of Rajasthan." This research is based on the primary data collected through fieldwork among the Bhil tribe of Udaipur district of Rajasthan. Data have been collected by detailed interview, focus group discussion, using questionnaire method. He explained how religion is important on daily life of the people. It related to political power like one religious head called Gopal ji is decision maker of the community. Also health related to religion. For example chicken pox is related to ma Shitala. They worship goddess Shitala for this. Religion is also related to economy, like stalls outside temple and the priests are also get paid for their services inside the temple. So Religion is important in all aspects of life like beliefs, economy, power politics and also the health of the community.

Scientific Session 4

Scientific Session 4 had five parallel sessions. A brief summary of various sessions is given below.

Parallel Session 1: Physical and Mental Health: Issues of wellbeing

The session was chaired by Dr. Ajeet Jaiswal and co-chaired by Dr. Piyoosh Kumar Singh

The first speaker of the session **Priyanka Airi Goyal** presented a paper titled "Association of body fat indices and waist circumference with blood pressure among adolescent girls of District Yamunanagar, Haryana, India" co-authored by Indu Talwar (Former Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, Panjab University) about a cross-sectional study undertaken to examine association between blood pressure and various indices of obesity among the adolescent girls aged 9 to 17 years of Yamunanagar district of Haryana using resting blood pressure, waist circumference, Body Mass Index (BMI), Fat Mass Index (FMI), Fat-Free Mass Index (FFMI), Body Adiposity Index (BAI) and A Body Shape Index (ABSI). Focusing on the prevalence of overweight and obesity becoming an increasingly important medical problem in pediatrics population in last two decades associated with a wide range of co-morbidities including hypertension and cardio-vascular diseases. Body size influences a variety of physiological

function like blood pressure and sexual maturation, linking the BMI with systolic and diastolic blood pressure. Speaker introduced new indices like ABSI and BAI to study the body fat and blood pressure combination. The cross-sectional study used a sample of 1045 scheduled caste adolescent girls using purposive sampling method with proper consent. The decimal ages, height, weight, waist circumferences and hip circumference of each participants were measured using standardized anthropometric techniques along with blood pressure, educational and occupational background of family was collected using interviews. Quantitative statistical tools like SPSS and One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to analyze the data. The results showed a majority of participants belonging to upper-lower socio-economic class (as per Kuppuswamy's socio-economic status scale); majority of parents were illiterate, employed as daily wagers or laborers and mothers as housewives; have their own houses living in nuclear families and fed a non-vegetarian diet. In terms of quantitative data, there was a correlation of systolic blood pressure found with waist circumference followed by BMI, FMI, FFMI and BAI. Of all the indices of adiposity, waist circumferences was found to be the best predictor of systolic blood pressure and BMI of diastolic blood pressure among the participants. BMI and Waist circumference demonstrate stronger association with blood pressure as compared to ABSI and BAI indices and very with age, gender and ethnicity. In recommendation, speaker suggested for more studies to be conducted on a larger sample of Indian adolescent to ascertain the relationship of these indices of obesity with blood pressure.

The second speaker of the day **Kaustav Das** presented his paper titled as “Double Burden of Undernutrition and Hypertension: A Cross-Sectional Study among the Sabar males of West Bengal, India.” He talked about the evaluation of undernutrition or Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) to be of higher priority among the researchers worldwide signifying lack of food security as compared to obesity. India is ranked at 94th out of 107 countries, where tribal people are most underprivileged section in India and 76 studies revealed that both tribal males and females are considerably undernourished highlighting the recent study on 9 tribes of Gujarat, Orissa and West Bengal reported adult undernutrition rates as 40%. On other hand, there is high prevalence of high blood pressure as disease in South Asia. His paper is a cross sectional study conducted to assess the nutritional status and prevalence of hypertension with different anthropometric and blood pressure variables among the 215 Sabar adult males aged 18-63 years of Purulia District, West Bengal, India. Sabars are traditionally foragers but presently work as wage laborers also, living in abject poverty and social stigma of criminality. Using random sampling, semi-structured schedule was also administered to collect socio-economic information where the participants were divided into 2 groups of Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) and non-CED and 3 income groups based on per capita income and collected data was analyzed using ANOVA and Chi square test. The result showed that there is coexistence of high prevalence of undernutrition based on BMI (CED) and Hypertension was among adult male Sabars was observed, with heavy manual work, poor dietary intake, and other risks like smoking, chewing tobacco, alcohol consumption etc. In conclusion, speaker said that paradoxically, there existed a high prevalence

of CED and Hypertension among Sabar men and further research with larger heterogeneous sample is required to fully understand the mechanism behind this paradox.

The third speaker of the session **Urvashi Gupta** presented her paper titled “Body composition and corpulence status among adolescents of Delhi”, to assess the obesogenic set outs among adolescent boys and girls of Delhi by using Body Mass Index (BMI) and body compositional parameters like Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis (BIA). It is a cross-sectional study with a sample size of 894 adolescent boys and girls of Delhi with parental consent. Data was analyzed using SPSS software and descriptive statistics. The speaker could not provide with complete analysis of the data from her study, thus presented a part of the analysis. She explained that overweight youth are at an increased risk for development of adverse health conditions, with confirming association between BMI and fatness in a group of healthy Delhi children with a wide range in age. Although, interpretation need to be cautious when BMI is compared across groups that differ in age as many times these techniques fail to differentiate heaviness of individuals existing either due to adiposity or muscular-built. In conclusion, she said that the body composition and corpulence status has a correlation as observed in the data among the adolescents of Delhi.

The fourth speaker of the session **B. Surajkumar Sharma** presented his paper titles as “A study on Water borne Morbidities of Karang Islet, Manipur” to determine the incidence of water-born morbidities and its contributing factors, causes for water-borne disease and level of awareness about health hygiene among the 618 participants. Inadequate water supplied led to the spread of diseases, and Water-borne diseases like cholera, diarrhea, and dysentery are caused by ingestion of contaminated water and poor sanitation. Water Sanitation and Hygiene related diseases kill nearly 1 million people per year, where children under 5 years of age and over 50 years of adults are affected the most. The study site Karang is an islet located in middle of Loktak Lake in North East India, where people’s main occupation is fishing. Observation and conversational tools were used to collect data, and detailed analysis of the data has been presented by the speaker. In result, speaker explained that lack of awareness is the major problem among the community causing to pollute the water bodies by anthropogenic activities. These activities are required to be checked for conservation of water resources and prevention of water-borne diseases. Also, the provision of safe drinking water has to be strategized in community for health and sanitation. In recommendation, speaker suggested the govt. policies and interventions could be helpful towards good health care system in the village for providing proper sanitation and hygiene.

The fifth speaker of the session **Kirti Rao** presented her paper titled as “Intervention programs on Physical Fitness and Nutrition among school children and adolescents: An Anthropological perspective,” and co-authored by Dr. Shivani Chandel, which was basically the review of articles that aims to examine intervention programs conducted globally with regard to physical fitness and several health outcomes among children and adolescents. The researcher, defining physical fitness, stated that childhood and adolescence cardiorespiratory fitness level declining which is considered an important indicator of present and future health. Nutrition also

plays a major role for human survival. PubMed and Google scholar were used to collect ten studies on school children and adolescents of 5-18 age group were then selected for review. Then, the researcher explained the findings of the paper and highlighted that policy driven multifaceted intervention improved children's fitness and body composition. For the improvement of child nutrition a multifactorial approach is required. The present review found evidence to suggest positive association of intervention programs with fitness, health, and academic achievement of children. However, any phenomenon cannot be studied in isolation. In India, study reported anthropometric and food based nutritional failure among children. Along with physiological factors participant's socio-economic variables should be collected. Ethnographic profile was missing which along with physical factors help in understanding our data holistically. Schools, universities play a vital role by diagnosing children with low physical fitness and encouraging children to be active, upholding positive health behavior in them. Therefore, it is imperative to educate them about fitness and awareness regarding its benefits for the present and future. She also explained the current situation of physical fitness in COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted that due to complete transformation of work and studies to online mode have resulted in increased sitting hours and ignoring physical fitness.

The sixth speaker of this session **Subhranshu Sekhar Nayak** presented his paper titled as "Quantitative and Qualitative Study of Substance Abuse among Tribal Adolescents: A Review", co-authored by Dr. Vipin Gupta with the aim to review and discuss the status of substance abuse, related practices and problems among tribal adolescents. He started his presentation by defining the term "Substance Use" and mentioning some commonly used psychotropic substances. Addiction to abusing substances is one of the major problems for human society now-a-days. Developing countries like India are experiencing more problem related addiction than developed countries. His paper was basically a systematic review of existing literature, related to substance abuse of the last twenty years. He, then, defined types of substances on the basis of usage procedure, result of purpose and targeting body parts and physiology. The researcher explained the difference between "use", "misuse" and "abuse". Young adults who misuse substances are at increased risk of developing a substance use disorder at some point in their lives. Spectrum of Psychoactive Substance ranges from Beneficial Use, Casual/Non-problematic Use, Chronic Dependence and lastly to Problematic Use. Then, explaining about the adolescents, he stated that habits and behavior picked up during this, this is the time of increased vulnerability to the initiation of drug use, the critical risk period for the initiation of substance abuse. According to UGC, drug addiction has become a major challenge in many universities and higher education institutes with numerous cases of students getting addicted to substance abuse. Elaboration about tribal population took place and it was found that significantly higher use of alcohol has been reported from rural, tribal and disadvantaged communities of India. Alcohol intake is culturally well accepted in the tribal population. Alcohol and some other addiction substances like cannabis are a part of their spiritual-religious rituals, ceremonial practice and socio-cultural life. Cultural factors like traditional acceptance may enhance the number of people involved in addiction. Various studies in India and western countries have

found the prevalence of alcohol use to be higher in the tribal population. Tribes and Ethnic minorities are often disadvantaged in terms of health access and knowledge. Substance abuse further reinforces inequalities and leads to poverty. People with addiction often have one or more associated health issues, which could include lung or heart disease, stroke, cancer, liver and kidney damage, dental problems, eye problems, immune deficiency, sex-reproductive problems, declining memory, attention, cognitive and motor functions etc. Abuser leads towards substance related disorders and antisocial behavior and long term personality change. The researcher concluded it by saying that adolescent health must be maintained otherwise social health will be affected, so this is necessary to study the adolescence health status, issues and risk factors associated with them. Dr. Piyoosh Kumar Singh (co-chairperson) emphasized on the need to do proper citation in the research paper and recommended the researcher to do so.

The last speaker of the session **Suman Rawat** presented the paper titled as “Reproductive Health of Females of an Urban Slum: From Menarche to Menopause” that was a cross-sectional study aimed to understand females' reproductive health, from the onset of menarche to the menopause in an urban slum. The researcher started by defining the term “Reproductive Health” and connected it with menstruation having several norms and taboos in the society. This study had the objective to identify and understand the problems experienced by the women related to menstruation in Bapu Nagar Basti, Lucknow. The study showed the problems/illness experienced during the menstrual cycle, products used during menstruation; unmet need; preferred family planning methods, health problems faced after the last delivery and Gynaecological Health Problems (GHP) experienced throughout the lifespan. The researcher carried 2 months fieldwork in 2017 and revisited the place in 2021 to verify the data collected earlier. Findings explained by the researcher included the local terms used by the people for menstruation such as “maasik”, “mahina”, “nahaan” or “sardhovan”. The study also revealed that with increasing age, the duration of menstrual cycle decreased. Materials used during menstruation were found to be old pieces of cloth rag (25%) and cotton from mattresses or quilts (6%) as told by women from the post-reproductive age group. Variations in the use of products during menstruation were found on the basis of age, education, social and economical condition of girls and women in the Basti. 24% of the women and girls used sanitary napkins who mostly were students and other young girls. Health related issues during the menstrual cycle were back pain, severe abdominal pain, leg pain, etc. In the initial days of the menstrual cycle, the women didn't take baths in order to lessen the flow and health complications that ultimately lead to rashes, infection and pain. The researcher categorised the social problems faced by the women into- lack of knowledge regarding menstrual cycle, accessibility for the disposal of products used during menstrual cycle and taboos related to menstruation. The researchers also found that 68% of the women present in the Basti did not follow any family planning methods. Major complications witnessed during the pregnancy by the women were excessive weakness and anaemia. The researcher concluded the paper by saying that reproductive health is highly affected by social, demographic and economic situations, local beliefs and perceptions about

menstruation causes physical and social problems among young girls and women and education is playing a major role in removing the barriers regarding reproductive health.

Parallel Session 2: Physical and Mental Health

The session was chaired by Prof. Barun Mukhopadhyaya and co-chair: Dr. Mithun Sikdar. Theme of this session is “Physical and Mental Health” and it encompasses six presentations.

First presentation of this session was presented by **Kiran Kairi** on the topic “Assessment of Nutritional Status among Adult Tea Garden Workers of Cachar District of Assam Northeast, India”. She explained on the highest tea producing state (Assam) in India which is having a scarcity of reliable information on health and nutritional status among tea garden population to enable initiating public health benefits. She very well explained about how nutritional status linked with dietary habits. She also talked about the Anthropometric measurements and indices. She explained about the overall prevalence of under nutrition, overweight and obesity which was observed to be 14.00%, 16.00% and 4.87% respectively. She emphasized the sex-specific prevalence of overweight. She highlighted the Health status of the studied population of Assam (that was very low) and the overall prevalence of under nutrition among the population of Assam. She discussed the nutritional status among different states of India in which she mentioned the status of women that was very vulnerable condition than men.

Second presentation was delivered by **Tanima Das** on the topic “Prevalence of general and central obesity among adolescent girls in sub-urban area of West Bengal”. To begin with, she described about the worldwide obesity and a serious public health concern for all ages and how obesity linked with many diseases especially in urban/sub-urban populations in India. She explored in her paper mainly about the prevalence of obesity among a group of adolescent girls of sub-urban. As per the major findings of the study, general and central obesity both was found prevalent among the majority of participants. She focused about that the age may have played a role on prevalence of general and central obesity among participants. With the nice presentation she concluded her topic that the frequency of general and central obesity among the participants increased with age and the trait of urban adolescent girls was normal and non-obese (only approximately 16 % were obese).

Next topic was “Multifaceted Dynamics of Post-Partum Depression: An Anthropological Insight” presented by third speaker **Sohini Sinha**. She presented a paper on Post-partum Depression (PPD) and described about the mental health hazards have become a global issue and how these factors affecting a population. She wonderfully described the PPD and how PPD become a mental health illness which was majorly affecting women. She highlighted the mental health of mother’s impacts and how it determined the growth and development of child. She also very well described about the biological and social factors which was linked to the psychiatric

disorders. She described that the 10% women during pregnancy and 13% of them after giving a child birth suffers from mental health disorders. She explained about the problems in terminology, screening of PPD, post-partum affective disorders and treatments, post-partum depression and use of antidepressants. She concluded with the anthropological understanding of the mental illness and the health seeking behavior of the population for effectively treating them.

Next presentation was presented by *fourth speaker Preeti* on the topic of “Discussions over needful concerns: voices negotiating with the overall health” .She described her paper on the issues of physical and mental health of women in prostitution. She basically focused on the major issues in feminist debates around prostitution and it can be classified into three categories such as abolition, rehabilitation and regulation of prostitution and she mentioned about the women in prostitution who were majorly victims and used as objects for commercialization due to the patriarchal continuation in our society and need of their protection and rescue. She explained about the socio-cultural beliefs, stereotypes and stigmas attached to prostitution and described that women in prostitution were subjected to inhumane treatment. She also talked about the HIV and sexually transmitted diseases in women and how they tackled these situations. Lastly, she explained her experiences while conducting the fieldwork and she explicitly mentioned about the interest shown by the participants women sex workers in Delhi and Kolkata to participate in her study.

The last and next speaker of this session was **Khangembam Taibanganba Meitei** and he presented a paper on “Depression and its associated socio demographic correlate among the Meitei’s of Manipur” .He presented a paper on Depression of Meitei’s of Manipur and introduced Depression that was one of the most common mental health issues affecting every individual. He determined the prevalence of depression and how it was associated with sociodemographically among Meitei’s of Manipur. As per the finding of his study, the prevalence of depression in Meitei’s population was 4.5%. He also talked about the prevalence of depression among the general population on national and international level. He concluded his study with the findings of univariate and multivariate analysis which was showed that the presence of illness were found highly correlated risk factors with depression among the Meirei’s of Manipur.

The session was bind up with the wordings of the Chair Prof. Barun Mukhopadhaya who summarise the session and throw a concise glance over the presentation of participants.

With the final precious remarks by Dr. M. Kennedy Singh the session was ended up.

Parallel Session 3: Demography and Maternal Health

The session was co-ordinated by Prof. Benrithung Murry, chaired by Prof. Banrida Langstieh and co-chair by Dr. Harvinder Kaur. The theme of the session was Demography and Maternal Health.

Nongthomban Achoubi Devi was the first speaker and she talked about ‘Mortality status among the bamons (Brahmins) of Manipur’. She reported that prenatal mortality is higher than the postnatal mortality among Bamons. Also the mothers who were illiterate or even had primary education has spontaneous foetal loss. And neonatal mortality occurred mostly among the self-employed women. There was an inverse relationship between postnatal mortality and vaccination status of the Bamons. Of all the types of mortality, prenatal mortality is high. At last she stressed that education of these women is required and healthcare should be promoted.

Next speaker was **Thangjam Chitralekha Devi** and she gave a presentation on ‘Preterm Birth among the Meitei Women of Manipur’. Her study reported that there is 19.23% pre term birth occurring in this particular population and women with maternal age of below 19 years shows higher rate of preterm birth. She also found that these mothers had early age of marriage and low level of haemoglobin which could be a cause of premature deliveries. There was a high risk of low birth weight and postnatal complications among the preterm birth infants. She also stressed that these mothers should receive quality health care both during and after pregnancy.

Topic of the next presentation was ‘Socio-Demographic profile of the Yadav Population of Firozabad District, Uttar Pradesh, India’ presented by **Rajeev**. Various socio demographic variables taken by him in the study were population size, sex ratio, educational level, occupation, types of house, cultivation land, number of cattle, etc. He reported that the present population is growing. Basic education were received by many but not the higher education like post-graduation. He further added that males receive more chances to avail higher education than females. Majority of males were involved in agriculture (potato cultivation) and females were housewives. Majority of population was living in pucca house and having land area 1 to 5 acre. Most of households have one to two cattle. He observed gender biasness as males having more privilege than female in terms of opportunity. The socio-economic status showed that present population is leading a difficult time as they are unable to fulfil their daily requirements.

Debashmita Banerjee talked about ‘Bio-Social Determinants of Demographic Dynamics among the Nagas of Dimapur District, Nagaland’. The study was respect to population structure, fertility and mortality among the Ao, Sumi and Angami Nagas. Study was conducted in five villages of Dimapur. Findings of the study were that children of age group 0-14 years constitutes from 34 to 40 % in different nagas, highest in the Angami naga. 60% of the population is in the age group of 15-59 years. The overall sex ratio depict that the males exceeds females in the population groups. The crude birth rate is found to be much higher than Nagaland and Indian average; whereas the crude death rate was to be lower than that of Nagaland and India. Infant mortality rate is lower in all the three nagas than that of Nagaland and India. The foetal death is composed of spontaneous as well as induced abortions and still births ranging from 27 to 44 %; highest among the Angamis. Total fertility rate is higher than the average of the fastest growing populations of the world. An inverse relationship between fertility, education and economic status is observed. Mortality status in these groups are much reduced comparing to Nagaland and India.

Ayan Bandyopadhyay has thrown light on how demographic data can be applied via a case study. His study was conducted at village Sardarpara, in West Bengal. By his study he showed how anthropological knowledge is applied in describing micro level demographic data. For example literacy rate is considered as one of the indicator for the development of a society. Also it has a relationship with the age at marriage, help to eradicate superstitions and to develop rationale. In this way his paper cover how demographic data are important to know the characteristics of a population and without knowing the character policies cannot be made and if made there is a great chance that they may fail.

Dr. Sonali Walia has discussed her study on ‘How preference for the male child affects fertility’ among the women of Alipur district, Delhi. Her presentation discussed the factors which affects the fertility other than the biological factors. One of the most important factors governing fertility is gender preference i.e. the preference for the male child. Since girls are not preferred, it leads to low status of women in community due to which they don’t have a say in family matter and their pregnancy. She reported that factors that compel preference for a male child are social. Few reasons are carrying the responsibilities of the family in future, security for old age, to perform last rites, sons propagate family name and family pressure; all this has led to decline in sex ratio from 1961 to 2001. She also stressed that even the educational status of women has increased over these years but still they prefer a male child because of family pressure; which is due to framework of our society.

Last speaker was **Sasmita Sahoo** who presented on ‘Maternal health and Taboos in Food Practices among the Juang Tribe of Odisha’. She addressed the problems of maternal health among Juang women and listed the type of facilities for diagnosis and treatment of maternal health. At last she has talked about the food taboos among the pregnant and lactating women. She found that mean age of first conception is around 19 years. More than half of deliveries happened at home in presence of in-laws or neighbours and very few (5%) preferred doctors for delivery. Women were found to be enrolled with schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojana. One of reason to avail these facilities is that various health care workers like Asha, ANM and AWW were familiar with their cultural practices and language. Reasons for food taboos are believe in unscientific tales, low level of education, pressure from the family to obey the traditional belief and low socio-economic status. She used pictures to show the food of the Juang women which was much appreciated by the chair and co-chair.

Parallel Session 4: Crime, Criminals and Forensics

The session was chaired by Prof. Kewal Kishan and co-chaired Dr. Ranjeet Singh

Ms. Deepshikha Agarwal put forward her ideas on the topic Contextualizing Inheritance of Criminality: A case of Denotified Tribe. The session started with the introduction on meaning of denotified tribes and classes who come under the particular community. The problems faced by

them because of the tag held from the olden days and until today was discussed. The study was exploratory and descriptive which is based on desk research. The original information was gathered from national archives of India and different commissions on denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes. The study took inputs from empirical research conducted on Perna community of Delhi NCR. The objectives were to analyse the administrative policies of British government that tagged the tribal community as criminal tribes and to study the basis of such categorization and the characteristics that are responsible for the tribes to fall into such categories, analyse the criminal tribes act and its impact on the upliftment of such communities. The study also aimed to discuss the concept in the light of biological and social context. The discussion started with the history of criminal tribes in context of the India and the world. She also commented that these prejudices about the criminal tribes were supported by the published information regarding the physical features assigned to born criminals by Lombroso in his biological theory and other descriptors on atavistic criminals. Drunkenness, increasing poverty, overcrowding and unsettled family life and decline of morals were seen as other causes of criminality. While discussing about the criteria for CT's usually lower castes and nomadic tribes and others who indulge in petty activities for livelihood were enlisted.

Dr Piyali Das discussed that the unique value of finger prints and dermatoglyphics in personal identification. Not only in forensics but also has diagnostic value for different genetic disorders as well. Several studies have reported the importance of dermatoglyphics as markers of a prenatal disturbance due to the fact that finger and palmar dermatoglyphics characteristics are formed by the end of the second trimester, they may provide evidence of disturbances in early development. She presented a study that is the first attempt to understand the association of palmar a-b ridge count among the E- β thalassemia patients. To achieve the purpose, finger and palm prints of 70 (Male-35, Female-35) diagnosed E- β thalassemia patients were obtained from Hindu caste Bengalee population of Howrah district, West Bengal. Apart from thalassemia patients, 70 (Male-35, Female-35) apparently healthy individuals without any family history of thalassemia as controls have also been collected from Bengalee Hindu caste population of the same area. Bilateral palm prints of all the participants were collected by using standard ink and roller method. For the present purpose a-b ridge count (ABRC) of each palm and total a-b ridge count (TABRC) of the E- β thalassemia patients and the controls have been evaluated using standard method. The results revealed significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher ABRC and TABRC among E- β thalassemia patients than the controls, and consequently indicated greater distance between palmar a and b interdigital triradii among the E- β thalassemia patients. Furthermore, significant ($p < 0.05$) increase of ABRC was found among the male patients than that of female patients along with significant ($p < 0.05$) bilateral asymmetry for ABRC among the female patients. She concludes that palm print is more informative than fingerprints in forensics as well as in clinical interest.

Dr. Preeti Singh introduced the importance of the bones in deciphering the results of questions related to evolution, variation and racial classifications especially in forensic anthropology for

determining the prime suspects in solving crime and establishing identities. The study was conducted to differentiate the sex of the individual on the basis of palate bone which separates the oral and nasal cavity. The study was conducted to test the reliability of using the palatal morphology in understanding the sexual dimorphism and as this bone is preserved inside the oral cavity and is resistant to decomposition and external blows as compared to the other bones can be used for identification process. The study focused to understand the sexual differences existing between the two genders, for which 64 (32 male and 32 female) cranial samples were studied, from various institutions of Lucknow. The study was conducted by taking the measurements on bony palate between different landmarks. The measurements were palatal length, palatal breadth, maxilla-alveolar length and breadth. It has been concluded that sexual dimorphism does exist between the two sexes studied and males show higher values for the parameters studied than their female counterparts. Concluding that the palate bone can be used with reliability and accuracy in deciphering sexual dimorphism and as forensic tool in resolving gender issues in forensic identification.

Shubham Thakur proposed the applicability of radio-diagnostic techniques for facial recognition system. She discussed the importance of establishment of potential human identification through biological profiling, craniofacial reconstruction, or dermatoglyphics. Craniofacial reconstruction/approximation can help to recreate and predict the likeness of an individual's face based on knowledge of tissue depths, skull contours/dimensions, musculature design, and skin layers. Scientific analysis of facial parameters like soft tissue thickness and craniometric dimensions is necessary to give the face a unique, individualistic, and recognizable form. Besides, knowledge of the quantitative distribution of facial soft-tissue at different craniofacial landmarks becomes necessary for efficient craniofacial reconstruction for human identification purposes. She recorded nearly 33 cephalometric measurements on face and radiologic- craniometric measurements on same person and tissue thickness was measured using Osiris v 6.0.2.64 bit software, measurements were taken using the image tool of DICOM software. The need of the study was to prepare the data base of facial tissue depths of North Indian population using MRI/CT imaging techniques.

Priyama Bhattacharjee started her presentation with the difference between the forensic science and the forensic anthropology while also discussing about the pioneers of the forensic anthropology like Bertillon and Thomas Dwight and about the procedures of stature estimation. The objective of her study was to work on the under-represented population regarding the stature estimation using digit length, bi-acromian and bi-iliac length in northern and north eastern population. The study was conducted on Bengalee Hindu Caste Population from Eastern India and one of the ethnic groups (Chakmas) of North East India (Tripura). The participants of the present study were comprised of 100 Chakma females and 100 Bengalee females of 25 to 35 years age ranges. Distributions of the anthropometric variables including 2D and 4D demonstrated significant association ($p < 0.05$) between the age matched Bengalee and the Chakma females for all the characteristics. Examination of estimation of stature using

multiplication factors revealed least mean value for the bi-iliac length while, the highest being the mean value for 2D among both the population. The correlation analysis demonstrated most of the measurements demonstrated significant ($p < 0.05$) positive correlation with stature except Bi-acromian and Bi-iliac among the Bengalee females and Chakma females respectively. The study concludes that stature estimation from 2D and 4D lengths along with biacromian and bi-iliac lengths could be utilized for specific population group. As there is lack of previous data, comparative study remains unsolved and this study is proposed to conduct on more than 200 participants for more precise result.

Sood P started with the introduction about the identification of human skeletal remains as a perplexing problem throughout the world and it is highly important to conduct such investigations to mark the identity of the unknown human remains for scientific purposes as well as to provide solace to descendants of the dead individuals. The chemical combinations of human hard tissues such as bones and teeth comprise enormous discriminatory variations that play a crucial role in the identification of individuals. The objective was to calibrate the dates from collagen sample and estimate the burial period of the remains by quantifying the stable isotopic concentrations of carbon, oxygen, nitrogen and strontium. Radiocarbon dating and stable isotopic analysis of human skeletal remains are two such promising fields for forensic human identification. Radiocarbon dating or Carbon-14 dating is a method for determining the age of an object containing organic material by using the properties of radiocarbon. And the quantification of stable isotopic concentrations of carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, strontium, and sulphur in recovered human remains can reveal their geographic origins, residence mobility, travel histories, dietary status, etc. Bones and teeth are often the longest surviving human tissues and can remain intact for thousands of years.

Biswarup Dey, introduced about the autism as neurodevelopmental condition and the impairment caused by it in the individuals in social aspects and dermatoglyphics as highly heritable, durable, and age-independent human traits and have been studied as a model trait in humans for over 80 years. Apart from the attempt of unique identification the study of dermatoglyphics has many practical applications in the study of population genetic and medical research is well documented. The main objective of the study was to study the association between the dermatoglyphic traits and autistic individuals. As the Epidermal ridges are formed between the 7th and 24th weeks of gestation; from this stage onwards, they are unaffected by the environment. Moreover, critical growth of the brain is also occurring during this period. Several studies have reported the importance of dermatoglyphics as markers of neurodevelopmental disorders. To best of the knowledge, the present study is the first attempt to understand the association of atd angle and palmar axial triradius among the Autistic patients from Bengalee Hindu caste population of West Bengal. To achieve the purpose palm prints of 100 (67 males; 22.54 ± 17.01 and 33 females; 23.70 ± 17.38) diagnosed Autistic patients were obtained from Bengalee Hindu caste population of Kolkata district, West Bengal. Apart from Autistic patients, 100 (55 males; 28.2 ± 14.68 and 45 females; 24.78 ± 14.77) apparently healthy individuals without

any family history of Autism as controls have also been collected from Bengalee Hindu caste population of the same area. Bilateral palm prints of all the participants were collected by using standard ink and roller method. The results revealed significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher atd angle in Autistic males in comparison to the control.

Tulika Das started the presentation by discussing the term dermatoglyphics and its use as an ethnic variation marker in anthropology. The development of dermatoglyphics patterns begins with the appearance of fetal pads in the 6th week of gestation and ends with the appearance of finished patterns on the surface of the skin in the 24th week of gestation. These naturally occurring patterns are unique to an individual and remain unchanged from birth until death. The present study is an attempt to unravel the decadal population variation of palmar main line and to discern the sexual dimorphism and bi lateral variation of palmer among the Bengalee Hindu Caste population. To conduct the present study bi-lateral palm prints 172 (88 males and 84 females) individuals obtained from Bengali Hindu Caste population of Howrah and Kolkata, West Bengal, India. All the prints were collected according to the standard ink and roller method. Present study can be concluded that an American Indian and Negro type of MLF significantly ($p < 0.05$) decreased and Papillary Number is sexually dimorphic among the Bengalee Hindu Caste population. Present study also revealed that the C line polymorphism showed significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher frequency of absent C main line among the females of Bengalee Hindu Caste population. Based on those result it seems that Bengalee population have such kind of unique variability marker according to the studied traits of dermatoglyphics.

Parallel Session 5: Theme: Food culture

The session was chaired by Prof. Rajesh Gautam and Co-Chaired by Dr. Heemanshu Aurora

Sonia started her presentation with discussing the importance of mother's milk in growth and nutrition of newborn babies and how it is beneficial for child and mother. She discussed the current scenario of breast feeding and young child care practices in India given by NFHS-4 report. According to NFHS-4 report, Goa is one of the top states where children are breastfed within one hour of birth and Uttar Pradesh is the bottom one. After giving this general background, she discussed about the scenario of breastfeeding in the state of Rajasthan, which was her focused area of study. As per data of NFHS 2015-16, Rajasthan is one of the three least breastfeeding states and shows heightened incidence of growth defects and abnormalities in newborn infants. She, then, stated the aim of her study, “to study the role of socio-economic determinants on the breastfeeding practices and the overall health of the child”. She then compared her observations of prevalence of breastfeeding made in her study with the NFHS-4 report (Udaipur & Rajasthan) on the criterion of children being underweight, stunting and wasting. Then she proceeded to discuss the determinants of breastfeeding practices that she found, where the key variables were weight for height, weight for age, height for age, BMI for age, socio-economic status, sex of infant, birth weight, birth order, birth month, delivery status,

time spent with parents, total family members, education of father, education of mother, family structure, and lifestyle of father. Based on these variables she calculated the supplementary food and breastfeeding count (<6 months) and exclusive breastfeeding count (6 months). The association has been examined using the chi-square test. The final conclusions were: No significant association was found between the socioeconomic status and breastfeeding practices. But a close relation was observed between the smoking- drinking habits of the father with the total time they spent with their children. Those having good socio-economic status were found to be more educated than those with less socio-economic status.

Bikram Oinam's presentation started with introducing Manipur and its biological hotspots. He explained that the state of Manipur is very important region for its cultural heritage, rich floristic and faunal diversity, diverse ethnicity and unique biogeography. He added that Manipur has a long heritage and usage of their knowledge of medicinal plants as medicine, fragrance, cosmetics, and health hygiene and food supplements has been improving the quality of community life as majority of people in the region use plants and herbs for medicinal purposes. The he talked about the aromatic plants, those plants which give fragrance or pungent smell. They play a very important role in social, cultural and ecological role and have medicinal properties. He quoted many studies which talk about the rich ethno medical diversity of the region which indicate the vast usage of diverse plants for treatment of various diseases ad ailments including chronic illness such as cancer. Discussing the Context Ethno botany in Manipur, Bikram elaborated that almost 80% of the global population have direct dependency on plants as the primary source of medicine which are the results of the documentation of traditional ethnic knowledge. Then he shifted his focus on the changing factors such as the rapid population and development process in north eastern region which imply to major changes in the flora and fauna, introduction of new crops and plant species and changes in food habits and health status and practices. The focused plant family of Bikram's study was *Zingiberaceae*, which is well known for its medicinal values. He mentioned that the northeast region alone has 19 genera and 88 diverse species of this family. Then he talked about the genus *Alpinia*, of the same family and its significance in dietary habits and medicinal purposes by local healers in Manipur. Bikram's study aims to investigate the ethnobotanical and ethnomedicinal plant *Alpinia nigra* in Manipur. Along with this, the study determines the medicinal properties too. The objectives of the study include to assess the favourable soil habitat and texture of plantation and to explore the possible production of *Alpinia nigra* for commercial purposes. The methods included the study of antioxidant properties and GCMS analysis. The results of the study explain that the plant parts of *Alpinia nigra* which are used are tender stem and rhizomes and mostly used as food in local delicacies and as a medicine for treatment of gout and colic. Finally, Bikram talked about the analysis of his study which included that the *Alpinia* species is widely spread in Manipur. Though there have been studies regarding their usage in traditional remedies, there are still minute data on the constituent compounds and their medicinal relations particularly considering Manipur and northeast India. This plant genus also has importance in its value and the medicinal uses. Though traditional knowledge is available, scientific data which are responsible for

treatment of illness from such studies would benefit in improving the health condition. The plant also indicated great economic importance. Considering all the points, Bikram concluded that the large-scale cultivation of this plant is necessary for its income generation as cash crops and creation of a potential successful market value.

Neelam Singh, started her presentation with definition of obesity by WHO as “abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that may impair health”. After stating the facts about the global prevalence of obesity, she quoted the guidelines stated by WHO that reflect abdominal obesity such as waist circumference, waist to hip ratio and waist to height ratio which have been found superior to BMI. Her study was being conducted among 276 Tibetan adolescent girls belonging to the age group of 13-18 years of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh using stratified random sampling. The sample size of the studied population was calculated using Kish’s formula taking the prevalence of malnutrition as 17.7%. The somatometric measurements (height, weight, waist circumference) were taken as per standard protocol given by International society for the Advancement of Kinanthropometry. Data on physical activity was collected using PAQ-A. The prevalence of abdominal obesity was assessed using Asian waist to hip ratio cut offs. And the data was entered and analyzed in MS excel and SPSS 20. The results of her study showed that in her study the prevalence of generalized obesity and abdominal obesity were 2.18% and 21% respectively. Around 16.39% of girls in normal weight category were centrally obese. Girls who were doing lower level of physical activity and who were in higher socio-economic category were more centrally obese. The prevalence of generalized obesity was found less as compared to a report on adolescent and youth health survey in Himachal Pradesh (2014-15). While contrasting findings were observed by her when compared to a report on diet and nutritional status of adolescents in 9 states of India (National Nutrition monitoring Bureau 2000). In the end, the speaker recommended that this type of studies can help in identifying the individuals at risk. Furthermore, she talked about creating awareness among parents and school authorities and need of government plans to be formulated to influence healthy habits.

Monika Sah initiated her deliberation with defining the keywords of her study – Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), Personalized Nutrition, Behavioural traits, anthropometry and diet. The objective of her study was to assess the risk factors for CAD by analyzing dietary intake, food culture, anthropometric measurements and some clinical variables. She then introduced her topic with the statement that coronary artery disease is a major public health problem in both developed and in developing countries like India. Many risk factors are responsible for this disease however the major and significant risk factors are hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, diabetes, obesity and sedentary lifestyle. She pointed out many other risk factors like advancing age, unhealthy diet, use of tobacco, alcoholism, diabetes etc. Moving forward she talked about few symptoms of CAD such as chest pain, chest tightness, shortness of breath and pain in legs and arms. For her research work, the speaker did a case control and cross-sectional study with a mixed research approach of both qualitative and quantitative data collection. Her sample size included 150 participants of both the sexes, and the data was collected from Asian Hospital

Faridabad, Haryana. The age group selected for her study was more than or equal to 20 years of age. And the two major population groups for her study were Vaishyas and Jaats of NCR region. Then she discussed her inclusion and exclusion criteria for her study i.e., she included all the healthy individuals which were newly or previously diagnosed with CAD and excluded the people who were unwilling, unavailable, ill and pregnant ladies. Then she talked about the analysis and interpretations of her study. According to the study, personalized nutrition is common in cases whereas in control group it is rare. Alcohol consumption and tobacco consumption is high in Jaat population. Mean BMI is higher in males (27.31%) than in females (26.88%). Blood pressure is also high in males as compared to females. In conclusion, her study suggests that diet, behavioral traits and physical inactivity plays an important role in causing coronary artery disease. And a healthy lifestyle can make big impact to health.

Beginning her presentation with the general background of the study, speaker **Shweta Singh** talked about how adolescent girls are the mothers of future and their nutritional status has direct impact on the health and wellbeing of future generations. Poor nutrition during this stage can perpetuate the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition and can undo the cumulative benefits of good nutrition occurred in early life. Under nourished girls are automatically at risk of being stunted mothers themselves which are likely to deliver low birth weight babies. And this is why the objectives of her study are to determine the prevalence of stunting (low stature-for-age) among Tibetan adolescent girls and to assess the relationship of stunting with socio-economic status (SES) and physical activity among Tibetan adolescent girls. For her study Somatometric measurements were taken on 276 adolescent school going Tibetan girls (13-18 years) in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh following ISAK protocol. Data was collected using a proforma, consisting of questions regarding socio-demographic profile and physical activity level. Data were entered in MS-Excel and analyzed in SPSS 20.0. Stunting was determined using CDC 2000 growth reference. Chi-square test was performed to assess the relationship of stunting with physical activity and socio-economic status. The results of her study inferred that the average height was reported to increase with age. The minimum height was 153.46 cm at age of 13 while maximum height was 156.92 cm at age of 18. From 13 to 15 year i.e., during middle adolescence a clear increase was seen but thereafter, only slight increase was reported till 18 years, during later adolescence. The lowest prevalence of stunting was reported from age group 13 years (6.2%) while highest prevalence was found in age group of 18 years (25.1%). Overall, 48 out of 276 participants were found to be stunted. And both physical activity and socio-economic status were statistically significant with stunting. In conclusion, the speaker stated that when it comes to the assessment of nutritional status in adolescents, stunting remains under estimated parameter. There is a lack of information regarding the prevailing malnutrition in terms of stunting among adolescent girls. The present study attempts to bring light to this dearth and provide the scenario of stunting and its relationship with socio economic status and physical activity among Tibetan adolescent girls. She also added that this type of study can help in comparing estimates of burden of stunting across populations and developing resource plans and strategies.

The speaker, **Anushikha Lohagan** initiated her presentation with discussing about gestational diabetes mellitus as a metabolic disorder of pregnancy. She brought two approaches that have been used to study the GDM, the earlier approach included to identify mothers at risk of type 2 diabetes but the recent approach includes to identify the risks of adverse perinatal outcomes and thereby prevent them especially the future obesity in child. Regarding this, the first question raised by the speaker in her study was that “Does such risks transcend maternal glucose levels below GDM diagnostic thresholds?” and the second question raised was “Can the relative insulin deficiency be preceded by sub-optimal maternal glycol-regulation in early pregnancy?” Thus, the objective of her study was to examine the association between maternal normoglycemia along the full range of gestation with materno-child outcomes. The search strategy used by her included Databases as Pubmed, Medline, which was searched upto December 2020 using keywords as (maternal OR gestational OR pregnancy OR mothers OR trimester) AND (glycemia OR hyperglycemia OR hypoglycemia OR normoglycemia OR dysglycemia OR glucose OR blood sugar OR fuels OR glycoregulation OR HbA1c OR glycated hemoglobin OR insulin resistance). And the selection criteria were longitudinal cohort studies on healthy mother-offspring pair with data available on gestational glucose levels and at least one maternal/ child outcome were selected. 40 reports from published studies were included. The results of the research state that first trimester fasting plasma glucose drops due to pregnancy affected metabolism but still independently predicts development of GDM, large for gestational age (LGA) neonates, rate of c-section and macrosomia. It is associated with decreased fetal growth rates in mid-pregnancy which accelerates into late pregnancy. Second trimester glycemia were independently significant associations with child IGT, adiposity and fetal hyperinsulinemia, adiposity. For last trimester, dysglycemia increased the risk of LGA neonate, increased gestational weight gain, child over weight and macrosomia. Associations were stronger in case of fasting glucose concentration than for post-prandial. The speaker also mentioned the limitations of the study, binding of caregiver was done in only 2 studies and therefore the results found have a risk of bias. And most populations represented in the included in literature studies were from high income countries. Hence, the conclusions may not be generalisable to low-income counterparts. Also, the geographical region does not necessarily reflect ethnicity in the study.

The speaker **Subhash Kumar** began his deliberation with giving a background that in India 32.7% children are underweight as per the GBD report 2017. The Growth and development of the child usually studied with physical and biological parameters but there are many socio-cultural parameters which have direct and indirect impact on nutritional status of children, which needs to be studied extensively. Therefore, the aim of the paper is to observe existing literature on the impact of socio-cultural practices on growth and development. The objectives of study are, to study the role of cultural practices (Breastfeeding, Body massage, supplementary food initiation age) and social parameters (Socio-economic status (SES), Family type and Sibling relationship) on growth and development of child. For reviewing the literature, the sources used were searched through Pubmed, BMC journal, Paediatric journal and paediatric encyclopaedia.

The key words Socio-economic status and Breastfeeding and Children health status and Infant anthropometry was searched and a total of 17 articles are selected for the review and analysed. The inclusion criterion of selecting article was based on studies conducted with in last five years with large sample size and studies which specifically assessing Children's nutritional status w.r.t Socio-cultural parameters and anthropometric parameters. After giving a brief review of each paper the speaker concluded that some of the literature talks about SES and its negative effect on child growth and development while other articles on breastfeeding which show positive effects for up to 6 months of child whereas found 2 articles which show negative impact if breastfeeding has been done more than 6 months. Body massage also play vital role as 7 articles provide positive effect on child growth and development w.r.t type of oil or lotion used. Lastly, as inference the speaker stated that the socio economy status, race, cultural practices especially family type, dining habits and breast feeding directly or indirectly influence the growth and development of child.

S. C. Dube Memorial Lecture

SC Dube memorial lecture delivered by **Prof. Shalina Mehta** on 'protest, change and democracy: locating 'current' farmer's protest movement in Dube's construct of understanding change.'



Photo: Prof. Shalina Mehta Delivering the lecture

Prof. Mehta started her lecture by recollecting the memories of one of her meeting with Prof. Dube at Chandigarh Railway station. She reflected on some of his works and quoted from his write-up *On Development Design and Tribal People*, 'the notion of Development has not followed any standard definition.' She further underlined the point that national development doesn't necessarily mean the development of all segments that constitute the nation. She propounded that anthropologists have cautioned the policymakers about broad based generalizations. She explained the point that S. C. Dube has made in one of his work regarding

the hold that traditional agricultural practices have on people's way of life. She further talked about contentions regarding the laws passed by government pertaining to farm and agriculture. She also highlighted the principles behind theory of protest. She discussed about the issues of eco-cities and the agriculture land it's subsuming. She concluded by saying that movements are cyclic in nature.

Scientific Session 5

Parallel Session 1: Physical and Mental Health: Issues of wellbeing

The session was chaired by Dr. Nitin Malik and co-chaired Dr. Diptendu Chatterjee.

The first speaker of this session, **Dr. Koel Mukherjee** presented on *Socio-Demographic Factors Associated with Health Condition among Adult Bhantu Population of South Andaman: A cross-sectional study*. Dr. Mukherjee elucidated the origin of Bhantu, who were brought from Uttar Pradesh and were settled in the Andaman by the then British Government in the earlier part of the first quarter of this century. Being a community-based study conducted among 305 adults' individuals including males and females. Anthropometric measurements of height (cm) weight (kg) and blood pressure (systolic and diastolic) were taken using standard technique and Body Mass Index (BMI) was derived. The demographic details along with educational and economic status reported the occupation swift in Bhantu community from agriculture for various reasons, with the female leading in educational attainment. The study also showed high prevalence of obesity and overweight including males and females both due to comparatively lower intensity of physical activities with regard to nutritional consumption. Slightly elevated mean SBP and normal range of DBP among the Bhandus are worrisome indicators of pre-hypertension. Dr. Mukherjee suggested that progression to hypertension among the Bhandus can be prevented by reducing blood pressure through dietary modification, weight control, reduced sodium intake, moderate physical activity through regular occupational practice and moderation of alcohol intake. An astounding 45% prevalence of anaemic cases needs more emphasis on females to combat it with medical awareness and care. Menstrual health and hygiene can also be improved with proper awareness, use of sanitary pads and proper disposal of absorbent materials used by the females. The speaker concluded with remarks that this study being first of its kind in exploring theses health dimensions among the Bhandus, substance abuse couldn't be correlated with obesity without further detailed research, henceforth opening scope to do more studies among the population inclusive of holistic health parameters.

The second presentation was done by **Simran Dabas** on *Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal (HPA) axis and its association with suicidal behaviour*. Miss Simran introduced the concept of stress and increased suicide risk in terms of neuro-endocrine physiological aspects and the mechanism beyond it. This was a systematic review of studies investigating the relationship between HPA axis dysregulation and suicidal risk based on peer-reviewed journal publications and to

determine whether it is a potential biomarker for suicide risk. Articles published in English peer-reviewed journals were studied and case studies, reviews and meta-analysis were excluded. Hypothalamic–Pituitary–Adrenal (HPA) axis dysregulation is one of the major causes associated with suicidal behaviour and mood disorders. Stress hormones like glucocorticoids and primarily cortisol are involved in this process. Genetic background, early-life environment, and current life stress determine the HPA axis activity. This indicates a diathesis model of stress. Despite being an important biomarker for suicidal behaviour, there is no specific drug targeting the HPA axis. However, many psychological techniques and therapies are used to reduce the stress response and break the cycle of HPAaxis. The recent studies have revealed the involvement of haplotypes in FKBP5 gene that are associated with complete suicides, and the significant association between high induction rs3800373C allele and completed suicide. Speaking on early life stress, the participants with a previous suicide attempt were found with lower cortisol; level as compared to control group. There was decrease in hippocampal GR expression in those who died by suicide and experienced childhood abuse as found in post-mortem studies. Several of these studies conferred that HPA axis is involved in suicide risk, regardless of the presence or absence of psychiatric conditions, while participants with early traumatic experience produce alteration in HPA axis which increase suicidal behaviour risk. Further implications suggested by the speaker were suggestive of contribution of genes in altered neurobiological functions and HPA's involvement in several brain neurotransmitters.

The third speaker **Manjiri Gupte** on Prevalence of overweight and obesity in affluent primary school children in Mumbai. The speaker was eloquent in presenting the diverse arrays of childhood obesity as an affliction among developed and developing nations. In Indian context, increasing urbanization, rapid economic, nutritional and demographic transitions including the expanding obesogenic environment promoting sedentary lifestyle and consumption of energy dense foods and beverages. India has second highest number of obese children and adolescents compared to China. The city of Mumbai comprises the representative population of India. A trend of high obesity prevalence is observed in the upper middle and affluent classes of society in Mumbai. The aim of this study was to observe the trend of high obesity prevalence in the upper middle and affluent sample of similar class of primary school children in Mumbai through Cross-sectional study. As per the findings of the study, the overall prevalence of overweight and obesity among the participants according to Revised IAP 2015 growth charts was 22.6% and 14.4% respectively. This is comparable to prevalence reported in studies conducted in schools in Mumbai. Miss Manjiri emphasised the role of reporting the prevalence in order to help monitoring the trend of childhood obesity with a comparative approach to similar studies in India. This could also help in devising control measures to be implicated from very beginning. The importance of such studies is that they help in reiterating the importance of modifying/preventively strategizing lifestyle habits with respect to nutrition and physical activities. Miss Manjiri concluded with the notion that multidimensional approaches could play a critical role in the long term reduction of obesity and related outcomes.

The fourth speaker, **Rashmi Choudary Kapoor** discussed on “A study of Socio-economic and Demographic correlates of Nutritional status among Adolescent Girls of District Ambala, Haryana”. The speaker started off by talking about how nutrition is especially important in the adolescent period as it is also a time when eating behavior and food choices are altered, she added that nutrition during adolescent prepares for the demand in future health requirements. The speaker then talked about the study area, that is, Ambala district of Haryana and the five different eco cultural zones of the state Haryana. She explained about the sample size, which included 777 girls from urban as well as rural areas in the age group of 10-18 years, she also pointed out on how the nutritional status was evaluated with the help of BMI using reference Revised Growth charts by Indian Academy of Pediatrics IAP, 24-hour dietary record as well as Kuppuswamy’s revised socio-economic scale for assessing the socio-economic status. The speaker then elaborated on the educational and occupational status of the girl’s parents from both urban and rural areas. The speaker concluded that there is a significant association between nutritional status of adolescent sample girls of Ambala and their dietary habits i.e. frequency of meals per day, food habits, consumption of fruits and types of lunch (home-made, mid-day meal or canteen). She pointed out other factors associated with which had significant association with nutritional status, such as, place of residence, type of residence, source of drinking water, educational status of parent, occupational status of fathers, monthly family income and socio-economic status and presented their χ^2 values. The speaker discussed on limitations faced during and study, recommendations and possible areas of future research and concluded her presentation with the lines “Even as kids reach adolescence, they need more than ever for us to watch over them. Adolescence is not about letting go, it’s about hanging on during a very bumpy ride” by Ron Taffel.

The fifth speaker in the session was **Shweta Jain**, a Ph.D. Scholar from the Department of Anthropology, Delhi University. She deliberated on the topic “Urinary incontinence and associated mental issues in elderly”. The speaker started off with definitions of Urinary Incontinence and designated that there is no generalized definition of the term, she briefly discussed on what makes up the urinary bladder and the types of Urinary Incontinence, which includes Stress incontinence, Urge incontinence, Mixed urinary incontinence, Overflow incontinence and Functional incontinence of which stress incontinence and mixed urinary incontinence are often seen while overflow incontinence and functional incontinence are rare. The speaker also highlighted the various risk factors associated with urinary incontinence differentiating it by gender. She elaborated her methodology with inclusion and exclusion criteria and specifically mentioned that 36 articles have been reviewed for her study, adding that it was not country specific and the results of the articles all varied. The speaker concluded that the prevalence of UI has been increasing especially among elder women and how it goes unreported in patients because of shame, cultural stigma and poor financial status. She also discussed on its prevention through lifestyle changes, diet, behavioral modifications, etc and how to properly manage the risk factors from early in life.

The sixth speaker, **Shardhanjali Sinha** spoke on the “Impact of socio-economic status on the burden of still-birth in India”. The speaker firstly gave some background information on stillbirth, its risk factors, prevalence worldwide in figures and furthermore elaborated on the records of stillbirth in India. She then discussed about the objective of the study in which she added the rationale of the study like the absence of quality data on the adverse pregnancy outcomes and under-reporting of stillbirth and the question for differentiating stillbirth from neonatal death and the data to assess the modifiable risk factor for stillbirth was absent in NFHS-4 survey. She mentioned about the objective of the study which was to present a review on measuring the level of involvement of socio economic disparities causing stillbirth, of which the major parameters included education, occupation, family income, household environment and sanitation. The speaker presented a flowchart showing literature search and extraction, followed by data analysis and presentation where she mentioned the types of participants (childbearing women of age group 18-49 years), type of assessments and discrepancies in outcomes. The speaker then elaborated on the association of stillbirth risk with occupation which she divided into maternal occupation (working/non-working, paid/unpaid employment and household/outside works) and paternal occupation (laborer/working in a farm). The speaker concluded that progress in reducing the huge burden of stillbirth remains slow and insufficient to meet national targets and stillbirths are increasingly being counted at a local level, but there is need of further improvement in the quality and comparability of data at the national and global level, she added that the review shed light on how despite several efforts being made to improve pregnancy care in India, socioeconomic disparities in stillbirth still prevail and were found as important preventable risk factors.

Parallel Session 2: Physical and Mental Health

The session was chaired by Prof. Prassana K. Patra and **co-chaired** Dr. Piyali Das

The first speaker was **Ms. Chaitali Chaudhury** presented on her title “Assessment of tribal adolescent girls problems in tribal ashram schools of Pune District, Maharashtra”. She emphasized on importance on adolescence and importance the phase of adolescence in the life of tribal girls. Aim of the present study was to assess social, psychosocial and an emotional problem about adolescent tribal girls. Furthermore, it also studied the health status and spectrum of various other problems faced by them. For this study 400 tribal adolescent girls who were taking education in tribal ashram schools were selected by using simple random sampling. The cross-sectional study was conducted in tribal ashram schools of tribal sub plan area of Pune District. She further stated girls are facing various psychosocial problems were found to be significantly higher. Menstruation related problems were found to be most prevalent in older and young group respectively. This gives an insight to implement adolescent friendly effective awareness programme to screen routine tribal adolescent health problems.

The next speaker was **Meera Swain** deliberated on “Maternal and child health care in Bonda Tribe”. She explained the maternal and child mortality on the PVTG Bonda Tribe. She emphasized on ethnomedical practices on Bonda population which were categorized in three upper Bondavillages; Dumuripada, Bandhaguda and Badapada and three lower Bonda villages; Khuriguda, Kadamguda, Semiliguda under Khairput block of Malkangiri district. She further explained the health condition through ante-natal, post-natal care graph, Crude- Birth Rate, Infant-Mortality Rate, Immunization and many other variables. Lastly she concludes with a suggestion that tribal developmental programmes implemented by the government and NGOs need a restructuring/look to bring the desired development in Bondatribe.

The third speaker was **Dr. Aditi Munmun Sengupta** talked on “A Study on Obesity and Cardiovascular Risk Assessment among the Bengali Hindu Caste Population and Tribal Population of Birbhum, West Bengal”. She primarily focuses on Obesity, epidemiology of obesity in India, Mortality rates and CVD in India, and how obesity causes 32% of global death. She included 5 studies in her literature review. Her study is quantitative and descriptive in nature. She used several anthropometric parameters to understand the risk of CVD among 127 Hindu Bengali Caste(94 males and 33 females) and 27 tribal(12 males and 15 females) populations. Lastly she emphasized on the results which revealed that Bengali Hindu caste population is tending more to obesity which entails the Caste population to be more under threat for CVD risk than the tribal population. The results highlight the need to refrain from adopting a one size fits all policy approach in addressing the overweight-obesity epidemic facing India.

The fourth speaker was **Dr. Priyanka Das**, presented her work on “Age and menopausal status related changes in segmental body composition”. Her research is based on cross-sectional study which was conducted on 750 women age between 18 to 73 years. Age, height (HT), weight (WT) percent body fat (PBF), menopausal status were recorded. Subcutaneous fat and skeletal muscles at whole body, trunk, arm and leg were measured using Omron body composition monitor. She emphasized on the summary and explained that percent body fat, subcutaneous fat and skeletal muscle changes in accordance with age and menopausal status among adult women.

The Next speaker of the session, **Ms. Ayesha Parveen**, presented her review paper on “Association of menstrual hygiene and reproductive tract infections”. She provided a brief account on importance of menstrual hygiene for healthy life and told how unhygienic practices can lead to reproductive tract infections. Through her review paper, she described that menstruation is normal physiological phenomenon which began at the age of 10 to 19 years of adolescent girls. She explained the necessity of awareness among the adolescent girls and women about menstrual hygiene. As in many parts of the country, especially in rural areas girls are not prepared and aware about menstruation as result of which they face difficulties and challenges at home, schools and their workplace. She pointed out that inadequate and inappropriate water facilities especially in rural areas is the main cause of poor sanitation and

hygiene. Further she talked about the reproductive health problems and respiratory tract infections such as bacterial infections, candida vaginosis, pelvic inflammatory disease, cervical cancer, urinary tract infections etc. she also explained how these infection impacts on health in the form of various disease such as pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and adverse pregnancy outcomes such as miscarriage, stillbirth, pre-term birth and congenital infections. After that she explained rationale of this study, she includes that most of the girls are not prepared, in-terms of knowledge, skills and attitudes for managing menstrual cycle and this lack of knowledge and poor sanitary practices during menstruation results in serious ill-health ranging from genital tract infections, urinary tract infections, and reproductive tract infections. The associated symptoms of reproductive tract infections were burning micturition, vaginal discharge and lower abdominal pain. There were significant results of not washing hands with soap before touching the genitalia, unclean toilets and not changing absorbent frequently. She showed that as per the literature those women who can frequently change absorbent during menstruation are protected against development of Reproductive tract infections. At last, she ends with discussion that RTI, is interrelated with poor menstrual hygiene with its risk doubled in cloth using women with increased infections in re-usable pad used.

The final speaker of this session, **Ms. P.S. Vaveine Pao**, presented her paper on “Knowledge, Perception, and Attitude towards Menstruation among the Poumai Adolescent Students of Manipur”. In her paper, she threw light on a very important issue of menstruation and begin her presentation with the definition of Reproductive health as a “State of physical, mental and social well-being in relating all matters relating to the reproductive system at all stages of life. She offered a brief account on menstruation and she explained that female reproductive system is characterized by regular cyclic changes known as menstrual cycle and menstruation. Mrs. P.S. VaveinePao clarified her methodology in a very comprehensive manner which included the explanation of her use of cross-sectional study method conduct using a random sampling method. The participants included in the study were school and college students of Senapati district, Manipur. A pretested self-administered structured schedule and 3 points Likert scale was used for the data collection. She also mentioned the statistics used in the analysis which were analysed using Chi-square and contingency co-efficient using XLSTAT20. She mentioned that poor knowledge and wrong perception could be serious health problem in the future and hence the reproductive health outreach program would be an ideal approach to educate and to enlighten the adolescents about the physiological importance of menstrual hygiene.

Parallel Session 3: Tribal World and Challenges

The session was chaired by Prof. Anjali Kurane and Co-Chaired by Dr. K. Anil Kumar. The session started with a short welcome and introduction of Panel by the Coordinator Dr. R.P.Mitra.

The First speaker **Dr. Srikanth Yamsani** presented his work on “*Social-Ecological Impact of Displacement: A Study of Doyang Dam in Nagaland, India*”. He argued on the “involuntary displacement” and the impact that has resulted due to the construction of Dam. The study also bring on the concepts of “development induced displacement” and how it inflict the socio-cultural, economic and health of the displaced people due to lack of information which range from weakening community bond and emergence of new class structures, loss of agriculture and cultivable land, loss of home, shortage of food grains, loss of property. It also mention on the significant the North-East India has on being the hotspot for developmental projects. The debate and discussion followed with the impact of women on Dam construction who were believe to be the one to carry more burden.

Miss. **K. Grace Kom** as the second speaker presented her study on the “*Ethical Dialogue In The Marriage System of The Kom Tribe*” here she examines the complex nature of the ethical dialogue between the three ethical systems in the marriage system among the Kom Tribe which are Pre-Christian, Christian and Liberal Ethic while bringing out the different types of marriage among the Kom tribe. She conclude on the fact that the Kom Tribe still follows the Pre-Christian ethic to some extend alongside the Christian Ethic which on the other hand holds a stronger and more dominant role. While in respect to Liberal Ethic is presented as a “free from evaluation” that adds to the new dimension and how the complex dialogue has shaken the basic structure and have been the cause of unrest in the society.

The third speaker **Daili Neli** presented his work on the Mao Naga known as the “Mountain Dweller” of Manipur which titled “*Indigenous Form of Terrace Cultivation Among The Mao Naga*” which begin with the statement from Malinowski (1921) “Food as the first and the second most important need of man”, he describe and presented the different form of Terrace Cultivation like “Makoda” (permanently wet terrace cultivation) and “Dothudo” (dry terrace cultivation) among the Mao Naga. The study also focus on the importance of Terrace cultivation as the means of adaptations for livelihood and the role it plays in the social-cultural life of the people apart from being the source of providing food for their living, he retold how in the past wealth were measure with the amount of Rice one owns.

Lastly, the final presenter **Sara Huq** was supposed to present her paper on “*The Ethnomedicine And Its Practise Among The Gharia Tribe Of Rajashthan: An Anthropological Analysis*” The presentation end with her introduction to the study due to some technical issue on her side and the time lapse of awaiting her response to the session she could not continue with her presentation.

The session was followed with question and answer round, and came to an end with concluding remarks and appreciation from the session chair, co-chair and coordinator of the session.

Parallel Session 4: Religious Diversity

The session was chaired by Prof. AK Sinha chaired and co-chaired by Dr. Sharmila Gosh. The session saw four presentations pertaining to the topic of religious diversity. Staying within the theme, the papers have been of diverse nature.

Rameen Rashid Khan's paper explores the various dimensions of Indian constitution with its foundations of secularism, pluralism etc. The paper initially attempts a review of the history and development of the idea of secularism in India and the concept of uniform civil code. Highlighting such issues in the personal law as the privilege of polygamy for muslim males and associated favouritism critiques, the paper calls not for the sustenance of personal laws, but a reform of the. This is parallel to its conclusive attempt to state that in a diverse country, a uniform civil code can be destructive and its effects far reaching. The paper presses social issues as the rise of religious fascism.

Manisha Rathee in the second presentation attempts to identify the dynamics of identity, religion and gender relations through the window of dresses. The study is attempted among the Dewra Rajput community in Dhinkli of Udaipur. The paper discusses how dressing is exploited to express and demarcate a certain identity for others. It further discusses how the women are still bound to the traditional ways of dressing while men have moved on so long before. The discussion thus proceeds from this point to establish how in Indian communities, women are burdened with the notions of pride and tradition and how patriarchal gender relations have limited the freedom and scope of female expression to maintain power within male communities.

Stuti Singh, presents as profile of the Parsi community in India. Reviewing the migrational history of the community, the paper sets out by exploring how the ethno-religious community maintains its traditions and value systems. The paper develops from this point to a demographic angle to represent how the community is gradually disappearing due to an inverted population pyramid. The reasons of this demographic trend is then explored within such socio-cultural settings that define Parsis as their notions of the purity of lineage, their patriarchal set up for the assimilation of new members and also how the community has transformed with its contact to other cultural groups. The paper presents Parsis also as a example of multi-religious family units.

Rex Thiumai brings in an archaeological and material-culture oriented angle to the understanding of religion. The paper tries to appreciate with the tools of landscape archaeology, how ritual and sacred landscapes are transformed naturally and culturally over time. The conclusions arise from a field work among a traditional Naga village. The session received much suggestions pertaining to how landscapes could determine village boundaries in light of the head hunting traditions among nagas. It also features discussions around objects as the weather prediction zones etc. The paper concludes how there still exists a sense of sacredness regarding these landscapes even through there is a decrease in the frequency of its practice. It also recalls how there is a trend of traditional custodian ship regarding these landscapes.

Scientific Session 6

Parallel Session 1: Physical and Mental Wellbeing

The session was chaired by Prof. A. Papa Rao and co-chaired by Dr. M. Asghar.

The first speaker **Sukhmani Kaur** gave a background description of obesity and displayed fact sheets by WHO. She stressed on the point that in India, obesity has increased more in North Indian states than other states. The speaker then, stressed upon the different causes of obesity and that how obesity is a risk factor for hypertension, Type 2 diabetes mellitus, cholesterol level, joint problems, etc. Her sample included 582 adults of the age ranging from 18 to 55 years. Her findings mainly included that in the age group of 18 to 25 years males were more overweight than females but in the age group of 26 to 35 years females were more overweight. And in all the age groups of overall data it was found that females were more in the obese category. She concluded that there exists differences in somatometric measurements among the obese people but adiposity indices tend to increase with age and that overall prevalence of obesity is more in females.

Second speaker **Khriesivonuo Nakhro** focussed on anaemia saying it is a female disease and how it has been a growing alert in the developing countries. She gave a relation of anaemia with hygiene and health and how the Millennial Development Goals focusses on the issues of water and sanitation. Anaemia is a major public health concern. Her sample included 100 adult Garos on whom anthropometric measurements, checking of haemoglobin level, socio economic data was all collected. Her findings included that malaria is a common morbidity and females are more anaemic. People have low level of haemoglobin level. When she was asked by the co-chair how she would correlate hygiene with BMI, her reason was that if hygiene people were healthy and that would be related to the BMI.

Kevingu Khate stressed upon the importance of understanding obesity as an epidemic health problem which is strongly found to be associated with increased hypertension incidences. He then explained who are the Metabolically Healthy Obesity (MHO), who is a subset of individuals who are considered obese but exhibit no form of overt cardio metabolic abnormalities, and the need to understand it as MHO is not always healthy and a few number of studies have shown that it is associated with CVDs. The speaker focused upon his aim to estimate the prevalence of (MHO) in a homogeneous population from North India and to understand its association with hypertension which is a major risk for Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). He discussed the methodology of his study which have been conducted cross-sectionally among Jat community from Haryana, where data regarding socio- demographic and lifestyle variables were collected; anthropometric and physiological measurements for defining obesity and hypertension status; and fasting serum samples were collected for estimating lipid and glucose levels. He also discussed how metabolic health status is defined and the existence of two phenotypes of metabolically healthy obese and metabolically healthy non-obese. The speaker then presented his findings about the prevalence of MHO, which was found to be 38.3% among his sample, and

found a significant difference in the distribution of MHO in both hypertension stage 1 & 2, where metabolically healthy obese individuals significantly increased the severity of hypertension as compared to metabolically healthy non obese individuals. And with odds analysis ratio revealed MHO to pose significant increased risk for hypertension stage 1 and stage 2, respectively. He concluded his presentation by emphasizing how obesity remains a risk factor for hypertension and that MHO may be a transient state in large number of individuals in this population, with significant implication on hypertension.

Vineet Chaudhary started with talking about Anthropology and mental health, how in the 21st century non-infectious diseases have taken over and how mental disorders are starting to take over the disease burden worldwide. He pointed out that out of all the mental disorders, depression remains at the top taking a huge burden on people. He then spoke of the linkage between anthropological studies and psychiatric studies since the 20th century, and that social anthropology is a step ahead of physical anthropology in studying mental health. The speaker focused upon the association of blood glucose levels with depression among individuals from a single Mendelian population from North India, and his methodology in conducting his study by executing a cross-sectional study conducted through house hold survey among 808 participants of Jat Community aged 30 years and above from Palwal District of Haryana, using Becks Depression Inventory (II) to assess the depression status of the recruited individuals. He identified age-sex matched normal control individuals and persons with mild, moderate and severe depression, resulting to 502 total sample size. The speaker presented his findings that hyperglycemia posed an increased risk for depression, though statistically not significant, however among women a fourfold increase risk for depression associated with high glucose was found. He then discussed his findings in light of similar studies that have been done with similar findings. He concluded that no significant association overall was found between blood glucose level and depression, however hyperglycemia seems to have a slightly elevated risk for depression.

Parallel Session 2: Tribal World: Development, Displacement and Challenges

The session was chaired by Prof. Arnab Das and Co-Chaired by Dr. Aribam Bijayasundari Devi First Speaker **Mrunali Ghutake** spoke on ‘Socio – Economic status of Phanse Pardhi tribe in Ghatanji Tehsil of Yavatmal District of the Maharashtra State.’ She presented a paper on the socio-economic status of Phanse Pardhi tribe Ghatanji Tehsil of Yavatmal District of the Maharashtra State. Phanse Pardhi is the sub-tribe of Pardhi tribe and is mainly concentrated in the districts of Amravati, Washim, Buldhana, Alosa, Yavatmal and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra. They were once categorized under the Criminal Tribal Act, 1871 and were considered as ‘Criminal Tribe’ by birth under British rule that led to isolation of the community from the mainstream. Phanse Pardhis were traditionally hunters and were experts in ancient weaponry like bows and arrows, swords and hunting traps. They have faced discrimination and have been facing false accusations. They are often being arrested by the police on false

accusations to extort money in the return of their release. Ms. Ghutake worked on Ghorī, Kotha, Shirolī and Parva villages and took three major indicators in her study mainly education, basic amenities and livelihood resources availability. The district and the tehsil have been selected by her through purposive sampling keeping in mind the concentration of the aforementioned community. Moreover, the data obtained have been quantitatively analyzed using Microsoft excel. A total 105 households were taken for the study. Based on the data obtained, she concluded that there has been a shift in the occupation of the Phanse Pardhis. Though they were traditionally hunters, they have now agricultural labourers. They had to switch their occupation due to the restriction on hunting. They also undergo seasonal migration during summer. Furthermore, large number of the population is indulged into liquor production and its sell and some of them are engaged into selling of toys and other goods, construction works and begging. She concluded that the major barriers of the social deprivation of the Phanse Pardhis are low levels of education and less availability of livelihood resources. She also recommended that Education must be provided to them in order to develop their status.

Vivek Kumar Bhagat presented his paper on Rabha tribe of Alipurduar district of Dooars. Rabha tribe is confined to the forests and are known as ‘forest villagers’. They are majorly found in North Bengal, and are also largely concentrated in the states of Assam and Meghalaya. They are undergoing transition and they are transforming into a patriliney from matriliney. The Rabhas are a part of Bodo group of Tibeto-Burmese linguistic family and they speak Koch language. The Rabhas are experience transition or shift in marital alliances and also in the religious beliefs and practices. The Rabha tribe speaks various distinct languages like Koch, Burmese, Chinese, Bengali and Hindi. Rabhas tribe are divided in 8 sub-tribes as: The Kochha, The Rangdani, The Maitari, The Pati, The Dahari, The Bitalia, The Totla and The Hana or Shonga. The main objective of the presentation was to know the status of development of the Rabha tribe along with the various policies implemented by the government. Various government policies and forest policies have been framed and implemented to uplift and develop this community. Panchayati Raj system is trying to fulfil their needs. Speaking about the methodology, Mr. Bhagat has mentioned that both primary and secondary data has been used for collecting the data. Qualitative techniques like interview, observation, schedule and case studies have been used to collect the data. Secondary sources of data have also been incorporated to know the development and change that has taken place among Rabha over the period of time. There are various schemes provided by the government to the Rabha tribe like Indira Awas Yojna, Vidhwa pension yojna etc.

T. Beihronga presented a paper on the Lakhers and Chakmas of Mizoram having rich cultural tradition, festivals, dress, dance etc. and is a growing transit point for trade with Myanmar and Bangladesh under AEP/LEP. But, due to modernization, there has been a transformation in the lifestyle of the Lakher and Chakmas of the Mizoram, because of which the traditional institutions and laws of the tribe are coming into conflicts with modern institutions. Moreover, the improper

definition and classification has led to mis-administration leading to insecurity and agitation. The Lakhers call themselves as 'Maras' and they were formerly called as 'Lakhers' by their neighbours Lushai because of their popular cotton works. They are facing job insecurity especially because of the slow growth of their traditions and limited tools for preserving their unique culture leading to economic backwardness and insecure livelihood. The Mara language of the Lakhers is also facing crisis and a slow growth leading to discontentment among the Lakhers and this requires serious introspection. Furthermore, he has concluded that "The urgent need of the hour is clear-cut definition and systematic classification with proper approach & improvement as a result of mis-implementation of Forest and Wildlife Act/plan, Improper Planning and mismanagement of Central schemes that have taken off the rights and privileges, natural resources, dilution and exclusion, worthless and powerless to the ADC".

Sakshi Singh presented her paper on "Magh Festivals of Jaunsaries". India has rich cultural activities which kept us alive through their various traditions and rituals. The jausaries of India are recognized as an original inhabitant of the tribal population in the nation. Magh Festival is an important part of Jaunsaries socio-cultural life. Magh named on the Hindu month of magh which comes between January and February month. People of jausaries are referred to as Maroj in their local dialect. Magh festival is celebrated after the Ravi crop has been sown. Celebration of the festival is for relief of their monotonous life and for meeting their Kinsman. Deities are worshipped; ritual and offerings are made on all the festive days. Both Primary data and secondary data has been used for the study. First day of magh festival is referred as "Laagda". Next day after Laagda is known as Maroj. On the day of Maroj; several thousands of goats are slaughtered all over Jaunsar-bawar. The next day of maroj is known as "saajo or saaja". On the fourth day after the festival has begun it is known as Sankrant also known as Khichri Sankrant. Over the years there have been changes in the tribal festivals due to the following factors: Impact of education, modernization, industrialization and development as a catalyst in change; Now few people do not prepare for it because they are busy in their life and it is also seen that tradition of buying goats is ending.; Constant invasions in India right from the period of Aryans, to the Mughals and finally up to the British rule.; Invaders such as Mughals and Britishers brought with them Islam and Christianity and hence conversions.; And most of the people moved out of the village and started living in the city.; During the study, it was found that young people mostly do not believe in God.

Parallel Session 3: Prehistoric Culture

The session started with the introduction of the Chair and Co-Chair Prof. Ranjana Ray and Dr. Tiasunep by the Co-ordinator Prof. M. K. Singh.

This session was scheduled for six paper presenters but only four presented their paper. The first presenter **Abdul Adil Paray** talked about the distribution pattern and number of Neolithic sites located in south Kashmir, the geological formation of the Valley with respect to South-Kashmir,

the cultural sequence obtained in the area so far, material remains found there by surface collections and during excavation, ethnographic survey and Site Catchment Analysis, etc. Show that south-Kashmir was the hub of Neolithic activities in Kashmir. The research work proposes to reconstruct Neolithic culture keeping in view the ethnographic data in absence of widespread large-scale exploration of Neolithic culture in the region their antiquity and understanding of culture is not properly understood. This work makes an attempt to find out more information from archaeological field work the scope of of this work is an attempt for the identification and understanding Neolithic culture and Neolithic sites with special reference to their settlement pattern. Another important purpose of the study is the documentation of the newly explore Neolithic megalithic sites. The geographical area in the present study is mainly district Pulwama and Anantnag in Jammu Kashmir and the earlier evidences of the occupation by early man in middle paleolithic upper paleolithic and Neolithic times have been found. Research scholar worked on sites gufkral waztal dadsar Hariparigom and begun. Standard archaeological tools and techniques were applied for collection of empirical data and identification and interpretation of archaeological sites including documentation, mapping, ethnographic survey, analysis of stone tools and pottery. The site locations, extensions, and collection of available material remains, etc. Was also done after a fresh field survey of the region, so that these sites would be excavated and preserved in near future.

Yashi Mishra presented on the ancient Egyptian culture that holds a vast and mysterious trove of history with many intriguing and fascinating stories to tell. One of the most prodigious and marvellous mention in the Egyptian legends is that of the Mummies of the Kings and the Pharaohs, who ruled the Egypt in the ancient and prehistoric times.. It is the multitude of myths and stories of curse associated with the Egyptian Mummies which paints them in the light of one of the World's most enthralling mysteries. But dead now for thousands of years, the mummies continue to speak to us. This paper attempts to demystify the Egyptian Mummy by discussing the extraordinary discoveries and excavations that helped unleash the truth of the mummies by reflecting upon the Ancient Egyptian culture and its beliefs that lead those people to mummify the bodies of the deceased.

Debaji Mahato, a Junior Research Fellow from University of Calcutta was the third speaker for the session. She presented an empirical research based on environmental archaeology from the site of Jagannathpur, Purbi Singbhum district of Jharkhand. She discussed the importance of prehistoric studies in the contemporary times and tracing from the available literature on Singbhum, she reconstructed the palaeolithic site in order to understand how prehistoric people lived and adapted to the area. With the geomorphological features and geological depositions, Mahato discussed how she understood the cultural assemblage belonging to the site. The presentation was concluded with the tracing of subsistence patterns, mobility of the prehistoric men and informing Jagganathpur as a factory site, evidenced from the presence of heavy-duty tools, unfinished tools and debitage found near the riverbeds.

Last speaker for the session was **Leena Laskar**. She is a postgraduate student of Archaeological Anthropology from Cotton University, Guwahati. She presented her paper on a living Megalithic tradition among the Karbis of East Karbi Anglong District, Assam that aimed at documenting the megalithic structures existing today and associated cultural practices with it. Her findings based in seven Anglong villages suggested on the ritualistic importance in the contemporary times.

With thanking notes from Prof. Ranjana Ray, Dr. Tiasunep, and Prof. M.K. Singh, the session was ended.

Parallel Session 4: Climate Change, Disasters And Sustainable Development

The session was chaired by Prof. Shabeena Yasmin Saikia and co-chaired Dr Gurindar Kaur

Dr. Moirangthem Kabita Devi delivered the presentation on the topic Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act [MGNREGA] , Awareness about various Entitlements among the beneficiaries of Nachou Gram Panchayat , Manipur . Dr devi explained the objective and the need of participatory planning of the people at the grassroot level with the help of data collected from 200 beneficiaries of the Nachou Gram Panchayat of Bishnupur district Manipur . she starts the lecture by pointing out the unique design of MGNREGA in which she told about the two main components firstly the participatory planning and secondly employment as a right and demand driven approach . she showed the finding of how much people participate in gram sabha meeting . and what are the reasons for non participation and the statistics of people's involvement in work selection and she finds that almost 90% people don't take part in it because no publicity is done and some elected representatives predetermined the work selection. she emphasis that the study reveals work is not demand based infact it is supply based in the given considered area . she also gave insights of the finding about awareness / unawareness on worker's rights. And the maximum no. of respondents who are aware about medicine and worksite facilities . Dr devi's study makes an attempt to assess the awareness of sample workers of MGNREGA in context of Nachou Gram Panchayat of Bishnupur district , Manipur. And at the end of the presentation she concluded by giving remarks that the participation of villagers in gram sabha remains low, lack of awareness about right to demand work and also lack of awareness of generations problems and suggested some ideas to improve the remarks and in that she explained by educating some youths including women who can further educate the entire community.

Vijay Kumar delivered his lecture on the topic development and sustainable practices : a study of abhujamaria of bastar , he starts his topic with explaining the meaning of abhujamaria and pointed out that the sustainable livelihood is an integral part of social research today that came as protest or concern over the constructive development initiative those who are taken by the state through the making of industry , dam and infrastructure. He told about the abujamaria population in detail, where they were situated earlier . he also emphasis on the impacts of developments issues which the population faced, like due to moist interference they were not able to sustain their livelihood , Dr Vijay also finds in his finding that the population was helped by the

government of the chhattisgarh , government provided them housing facilities under several government schemes like Indira awas yojana and Pradhan mantri awas yojana , he explained the points on which this population is mainly dependent is the shifting cultivation and the role of women who engages in market and the type of religious practices they used to follow for worshipping, then he drew light upon the issues they faced due to which they have to migrate to different location some issues were entrance of nakasalites and ban on forest use , but the role of government played a lot in their lives by giving them small jobs of peon and gave work for women too on the construction sites and in manufacture of country made liquor and he pointed out the impact of these issues like the psychological conditions of people got destroyed and they faced mental trauma , his topic nicely tries to understand the problems which are faced by the hill Maria's or abujh-Maria's of narayanpur district at the end he concluded the topic with pointing out the remarks and observations .

Madhurima Chatterjee delivered the lecture on the topic climate change concerns of india with reference to coastal communities ; An Anthropology study . she briefly describe the concept of climate change . she pointed out the climate discourses through ages which focused on explaining disparities and weakness of culture under the shades of climate , she told about the history of climate change regime and anthropology and the different reports from IPCC and UNFCCC and Kyoto protocol , she discussed the anthropologists watch over climate in which she highlighted that the human activities driving climate change and adaptation and mitigation efforts , and lastly the role of government and other stakeholders , then Ms madhurima gave insights about the observations of anthropologists how he captures the struggle of coastal people and their mitigation efforts through ethnography , she also explained the main foundation of Anthropology of climate change was given by Steve rayner after that it has matured in four phases that are namely the cultural ecological , cultural interpretative , critical anthropological and finally the applied anthropology , her study reveals that the lenses over climate crises became visible in anthropology with the footprints of anthropologist Susanne Crate and her documentary ‘’ the anthropologist’ . with this paper new concepts are emerging like climate entrepreneurship and ecological footprints , she beautifully concluded the session.

Day 3

Day 3 started with the V.K. Srivastava Memorial lecture. Day three had 81 presentations on the themes like **Anthropological genetics; Human adaptations, strength and endurance; Physical and mental health: issues of wellbeing; Rural/Urban transformation-** including topics such as Urban public spaces, urban securitization, corporate social responsibility, mobility in the urban society and changing traditional occupations in Delhi.; **Crime, criminals and forensics-** DNA phenotyping, criminal rehabilitation, crime against women, finger ball dermatoglyphics, DNA methylation and sexual dimorphism.; **Tribal world; Development, displacement and challenges-** medical systems of central Indian tribe, tribal rehabilitation and livelihood, tribal development and challenges and constraints in tribal upliftment.; **Primate Behaviour, Biology and adaptation-** hair ultrastructure study on new and old world monkeys, behavioral study of the captive chimps, primate archaeology, palaeoanthropological significance and demographic and social aspects of adaptation to high environments.; **Anthropological perspectives on disabilities-** impact of stigma and discriminations, exploring the mental health, issues of well being and world of autistics.; **Climate change, disaster and sustainable development-** public awareness about air pollution in North Delhi, customary law and sustainable development, eco-cultural tourism and transposing natural disaster to climate change. **Anthropological reflections on Covid-19-** Impact of Covid19 on yanadi community, critical medical anthropology, auto-ethnography of living and suffering as covid patient and association of bio social parameters and prakriti body types.

V. K. Srivastava Memorial Lecture

V.K. Srivastava Memorial lecture delivered by **Prof. Abhik Ghosh** titled “The grand masters of Ethnographic presentation: a passionate anthropologist.”



Photo: Prof. Ghose delivering V.K. Srivastava Memorial lecture

Prof. Ghose began his lecture by stating that he was the first Ph.D. scholar guided by Prof. Srivastava along with Prof. D.K. Bhattacharya. He, then, briefly highlights the academic journey of Prof. Srivastava. He further talked about the ideas of Prof. Srivastava, for instance development in Prof. Srivastava's word is an ideational category. Prof. Ghosh talked about a paper written by Prof. Srivastava 'Malinowski in freedom and civilization.' He also talked about Prof. Srivastava's ethnographic experiences with Riaka community. He concluded by saying that Prof. Srivastava writings are based on this extensive fieldwork and by reading his writings we would be able to carry forward what he started.

Scientific Session 7

Parallel Session 1: Anthropological Genetics

Prof. K.N. Saraswathy coordinated the session and initiated it by introducing the chair and co-chair for the session Prof. Mitashree Mitra and Dr. Priyanka Khurana respectively.

The first speaker for the session was **Dr. Abhishikta Ghosh Roy** from Anthropological Survey of India, who presented on 'ACE Gene Polymorphism and Breast Cancer Risk: An Understanding', co-authored by Arun Ratan Bandyopadhyay. Touching upon the various risk factors for breast cancer, she talked about prevalence of breast cancer in females as well as males. From many genes associated with breast cancer, the study 73ignifi on ACE gene, and how the I/D polymorphism in this gene is associated with breast cancer risk among the Bengali Hindu females of West Bengal. The results drawn from 108 breast cancer patients and 127 controls were presented. It was found that 66.6% of the patients had a family history of breast cancer. It was observed that DD homozygous condition has a significant association with breast cancer, while the ID heterozygous condition is protective against breast cancer in the population under study. The second presentation on 'Genetic Diversity of Bhotra tribe of Odisha, India, Inferred using 23 Y-STR markers' was delivered by Muktikanta Panda, research scholar from Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar. With the objective to explore the molecular diversity and genetic ancestry of the endogamous Bhotra tribe by using Y-STR markers, blood samples of 133 unrelated adult males were collected, using which DNA profiles were generated. He presented the conclusion that the study population showed high degree of genetic diversity and genome similarity was identified with the Majhi, Dorla and Muria populations of Chhattisgarh, India. The paper was offered a suggestion to also look at the substructure of the Bhotra population, which has three sub groups- Sana, Manjhela and Badeor.

Next presentation was delivered by **Sunanda Rajkumari**, research scholar at department of Anthropology, University of Delhi. Her paper 'Association of homocysteine levels and menopause in light of MTHFR gene polymorphism among Jat women of North India' aims to understand the association of Hyphcy and menopausal status in light of MTHFR C677T gene polymorphism. It was based on cross sectional study conducted among 848 Jat women of Haryana, from whom demographic data and blood samples were collected. She presented the results of the study, which reveal that there are higher plasma homocysteine levels among

menopausal women, and 677T alleles affect homocysteine levels among menopausal women leading to an increased risk for the susceptibility of numerous disorders especially cardiometabolic disorders among the study population. She concluded her presentation with acknowledging her supervisor Dr. KN. Saraswathy and others.

Next speaker **Sweta Prasad** began the discussion upon the importance of capturing and understanding the increasing cases of Preterm birth particularly in North- India, in reference to perinatal morbidity and mortality. She then explained in a basic introduction about the DNA Methylation and its association with preterm birth and its future consequences and how other nutrient factors like Vitamin B12 and folic acid plays a significant role. She then explains the aim of her study to evaluate and understand the association and intergenerational variation of global DNA methylation and MTHFR gene specific methylation in PPRM in presence of MTHFR C677T polymorphism, folate and vitamin B12 levels. She discussed the methodology, where the participants were selected after obtaining required ethical clearance, samples were collected (Fasting blood sample, DNA Extraction) for study after informed consent and Mann-Whitney test was used to compare the median methylation levels as the study was found to be skewed. She also explained in brief about the selection criteria of woman's for studies both for PPRM cases and Case controls with the number of samples and type of tissue from which sample was taken. The Speaker then presented her results about Global and MTHFR gene specific methylation levels among PPRM cases and controls where there was a significant association between MTHFR gene methylation and PPRM in both global and gene specific cases. She presented her discussion and possibilities for future research and studies such as: changes in DNA methylation have been linked with early life events, there's no future complications in mothers with cases of PPRM, highlighting the importance of aberrant epigenetic patterns with respect to global DNA methylation and MTHFR gene specific methylation in PPRM cases etc She ended her presentation by adding to the novelty of this study, as it was the first to evaluate such association, how such findings can shed light on DNA methylation patterns with respect to Preterm premature rupture of membranes and its health consequences.

Next speaker **Tripti Agarwal** began her presentation by discussing upon a brief introduction to explain Adiposity along with its classification like- Difference between central obesity and overall obesity and how they are defined through WHR and BMI respectively. She also explained in brief on how adiposity becomes a risk factor for several other diseases such as Cardiometabolic diseases. She then went on to tell in brief about the genetics of adiposity through certain DNA markers for BMI and WHR such as GWAS and GIANT (Genetic Investigation of Anthropometric traits consortium) which is she told is a major milestone in field of Anthropological research. She also provided small information on Set point theory and Negative feedback control system. The speaker then talks about the different genetic markers and pathways which underlies the function of Overall Adiposity such as Synaptic function and neurotransmitter signaling, Energy homeostasis, Regulation of appetite etc. As well as of Abdominal adiposity like- Insulin sensitivity, Skeletal growth, Angiogenesis, Lipid storage etc. the speaker also shed light on how overall adiposity and central adiposity are highly heritable as owing to heritable percentage of (20- 25% and ~10%) respectively. She then concluded her

study by suggesting for more research and novel actions in this field of study and gave an example of such from his PhD thesis data on Cardio MetaboChip Pathway. The overall presentation given by speaker was a form of review about the ongoing research and studies on the issue of adiposity in human beings.

Next speaker **Imnameren Longkumer** began the presentation about giving a brief introduction upon Hypertension and how it is becoming an Epidemic in the world with its effects on Middle- and low-income countries. He then spoke about it being a burden on the national level affecting 1.3 million adults with 25% of it due to raised blood pressure. He then explained upon the Multifactorial and complex risk factors of hypertension such as Age, Obesity, Lifestyle, biochemical, Genes etc. The speaker then explained the Aim of his study as how Increased Homocysteine and deficiency of Vitamin B12 leads to the causation of Hypertension in Adults. He then discussed the methodology of his study being it cross-sectional in nature among the Jat community of Haryana, North- India. The age group selected comprised of 30 and above individuals who were unrelated up to first cousin. The collection of data was approved by the ethical committee and people were consent to obtain data. Various markers relating to Demographic and lifestyle variables, Somatometry and Physiological measurements as well blood samples for Homocysteine, vitamin B12 and Folate measurements. He then presented the results of the study showing the association of Homocysteine, B12 and folate with Hypertension stage 1 and 2 considering the Odds ratios with somatometric and physiological parameters falling majority for type-2 diabetes while Low folate, Low vitamin B12 and Hhcy levels falling in the odd ratios of Type -1 Diabetes. The speaker then concluded the presentation with describing how obesity is significantly associated with Hypertension with individuals sustaining arterial stiffness. Also, described how Hhcy – vitamin b12- folate interaction poses a significant increase in Hypertension through referencing two studies by Karger 2020 and Joshi 2018. He then closed the presentation, by presenting model depicting on how both undernutrition and overnutrition are both posing a risk for the development of Hypertension in Adults.

Parallel Session 2: Human Adaptation, Strength and Endurance

The session was chaired by Prof. S.P. Singh and co-chaired by Dr. Praveen Hoogar.

Dr.Ajeet Jaiswal presented a paper entitled “Textile Workers and Musculoskeletal Disorders: An Anthro-Medical Analysis”. He emphasized on muscular skeletal disorders among textile workers, specifically silk Benarsi saree makers, carpets etc. Due to unhealthy work conditions and long working hours, the workers tend to suffer from various illness i.e. vertigo, headache, anaemia, needle prick injury and burn injury. The health problems of these workers are unheard and there is a need to look into the problem and improvise preventive measures. This issue has been considered as a low priority, so this issue should be looked into. Health examination of the workers should be done.

Deepika Kakkar presented a paper entitled “Compatibility between troops anthropometry and workstation dimensions of an armoured combat vehicle. She explained how seat dimensions i.e. seat height, seat depth, seat width and backrest height for a combat vehicle should be determined using anthropometry. The Recommendations based on mechanized anthropometry helps in achieving comfort level, reduce musculoskeletal disorder and improve performance.

Dr. Vinod Raj Kumar presented a paper entitled “Resisting Morbidity and Mortality (RMM): An Equitable Public health” He explained that underlying problem to many morbidities are weak adaptation to gravitational force. Due to this a large population suffers from altered body composition, muscular strengths, inflexibility of muscles, movement dysfunctions, lowered exercise tolerance, risk of injuries and morbidities. There are many asymptomatic dysfunctions. . This could be reversible or irreversible depending on several factors (years of sedentary life, body composition, existing morbidities, level of commitment towards goal oriented physical activity and applied knowledge of the exercise coach).

Dr. Piyush Ranjan Sahoo presented ”The indigenous people and their indigenous knowledge of fishing and hunting : Study among the Nicobari tribe of Chowra Island of Andaman and Nicobar Islands,India. He talked about fishermen of five islands in Andamans.He explained how the seasons and direction of winds decided their fishing practices but with the environmental changes, there are climate changes affecting their fishing practices and hence the economy.

Santhwana Santhosh read a paper entitled” Memory as 76ignific and endurance: Theyyam and its narratives a source of cultural memory and resilience. She reiterated Theyyam and the oral narratives associated powerful manifestations of memory and resilience. She concluded that Makkam theyyam of the North Malabar of Kerala – story is memory, memory is story.

Parallel Session 3: Physical and Mental Health: Issues of Wellbeing

The session started with an introduction of the chairperson Prof. Rashmi Sinha and co-chairperson Dr. Rajeev Kamal Kumar by the coordinator. The time was allotted for five speakers but three speakers were present.

Ramandeep Kaur, first speaker talked about the experiences of parents who found their children being diagnosed with T1DM and the problems faced by them. She conducted semi-structured interviews on 75 individuals as her aim was to study people’s perception on T1DM. She highlighted that awareness is much more needed about what the disease is and how aware they are regarding their health. Ramandeep Kaur suggested different awareness programs for T1DM.

Monika Kulshreshtha talked about stress, anxiety and it’s prevalence in India. She explained how dance is a form of psychotherapy and the role of Kathak in reducing stress. The aim of her

study was to study the prevalence and association of anxiety among the female Kathak Dancers by a cross-sectional study. Her findings revealed that there was no significant risk of developing stress or anxiety among the Kathak dancers. She concluded that Kathak Dance can be a psychotherapy in curing generalized anxiety disorder. In the discussion section, the speaker talked about how she helped herself in reducing her stress and calming down by dancing kathak. For non-dancers, she had collected data from physically active individuals. Finally, the speaker concluded that more interventions are needed in this sector of research to validate the results and more awareness needs to be spread.

Mamta Kumari Thakur based her study on observation and questionnaire and web based cross sectional study during the second phase of lockdown. Her findings revealed that overall knowledge, attitude, practice during the lockdown period of COVID 19 was substantially good but stress and depression posed as a risk factor because of the pandemic. Discussion: - In this section, the chairperson and the speaker Mamta Thakur discussed the role of the media and how they perceive awareness of mental health. Also, an overall discussion on the role of governance and local administration during the covid 19 pandemic had taken place. With the vote of thanks by Chairperson Prof. Rashmi Sinha and Co-chairperson Dr. Rajeev Kamal Kumar, Dr. Shivani Chandel concluded the session.

Parallel Session 4: Rural/Urban

The session was Chaired by Prof. Avinash Kumar and Co-Chaired by Dr. Rajanikant Pandey

The session starts with the presentation of **Pranita Medhi** who presented her 7 years of Ph.D data. She symbolically explained the polymorphic character of the urban public spaces of Dispur-Ganeshguri extension. She briefly elucidated multilayered features of the urban space and the examination of categorical disjunctions (inconsistence) amidst aesthetic transformation of urban public space. She focused on understanding that how physiological transformation of public space. She also determined the context of lived experience of people. She beautifully elucidated the concept of the place and the space; Urban public space with lots of Spatial theories. She illuminated her study area which starts from the near the traffic point at the supermarket (Dispur) in south to Christian Basti Bus stop in the North via GS road (3kms). Also the secretarial road (1.2 kms) from near the supermarket point at the east to Rajdhani Masjid point in west and Dr. RP road (0.8km) from near Rajdhani Masjid point in west to the intersection with the RG. Baruah Road at North. For the study, she only works on the immediate adjoining areas on the either side of the roads. She discussed about multilayered characteristics and also disjunctions of the urban space. She further highlighted that how public spaces has become spaces of consumption. She also pointed out the situation that how people are forming close relationship between spaces. As far as safety is concerned, the women in that particular area avoid travelling there. She beautifully highlighted each and everything in a satisfying way.

Dr. Indrani Mukherjee worked on the Gated community in the Gurugram. The Gated community as described by her is a physical area that is fenced or walled off from its surroundings. She indicated with the help of the picture that how the Gurugram city has been developed from 1990 to 2018; how the agricultural land has become residential land. She talked about the heterogeneous community which is a mix of everyone- the old, young and also all kind of family such as small, joint etc. She herself experienced the formal and the informal conversation with the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) and the other peoples respectively. Apart from this, she also illustrate about the whatsapp help group, actions taken towards the safety of the children, domestic violence etc. she elucidated the technological transformation that has been taken place. She concluded her lecture by stating that the Gated community is not a homogeneous space, most residence owner have the agency to negotiate or atleast voice an opinion on the matter of the securitization of the community.

Kalyani Sahal, in her study highlighted the anthropological reflections on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Khetri Copper Complex, Rajasthan, India. She worked on very sensitive issue wherein she illustrated the examination of the CSR activities undertaken by the Khetri copper complex (KCC) for the welfare and the development of the local communities. She defined that for Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a planned set of the activities taking into consideration the company's capabilities, expectations of the communities living in and around the areas of its operation as well as where it has its presence, targeted to have a significant positive impact in the long term. She described about the GVT which is NGO that focused on the Rural development and livelihood promotion with special attention to natural resource management, skill development, institutional development etc. she works in the Chanwara village wherein she talked about the construction of the toilet. On interview, it was found that the women there are very happy with this while some boys informed that toilet is not for everyone. Later on it was found that not all the people prefer to go to the toilet. They used to desiccate in an open field. Ms. Kalyani told with the help of the picture of Dry well and Recharge (SOKTA) pit that the villagers are not happy with this because they are not made aware of this and this condition of the Pit leads to the water clogging. Further the street lights are not working since two months. She observed the slogan writing over there which creates the awareness about the public health illness, public issues etc. She finally concluded with the view points of the KCC office, NGO, Villagers towards the CSR and stated that CSR act as a 'Bandage' towards the villagers.

Venu Gopal started with the introduction in respect of the concept of the development in the area of the Tribal Development, Rural development and also as an extension in the field of urban development. He worked on inferring that how urban man lives in urban society with everyday mobility necessities. He explained the occurrence of social changes when individualized transport inventions and choices were made available in society. He aimed to examine urban populations' reaction, action and adjustment to this new mode of transport. He also aims to study the relegation of concept like 78significant78on78ed, freedom etc. to the background. He

highlighted the ideas of the community, social responsibility and environmental justice with the introduction of new urban public transport system. In his study he 79ignifi on commuters as well as non-commuters of metro in Miyapur area of Hyderabad city. He aspired to come up with an urban ethnography in Indian context that entails innovating tools and techniques to collect data. In his study he concluded that not many people in the city of the Hyderabad have adopted the metro for their daily commuting. Though so much campaigning took place for the publicity in 2005. He illustrated that the commuters who choose 'metro' consider factors like traffic congestion, delays in transport time, pollution etc but not sustainable transport idea. He found that though planners, administrators, politician and other favoured and implemented 'Metro' as a sustainable transport, but in reality the Eco-Socialization which is a pre-requisite for implementing a development program like 'Metro' did not took place.

Speaker **Nikhil Kaithwas** worked on to examine the connection between shifting economic practices and occupational change among the Salmani Muslim Barbers of Delhi. He described his research work in concept of Barbering as a caste based practice, Neoliberal Delhi, and the transformation of the culture of consumption. He elucidated that how in the modern world the various Salon like Beauty salon and Javed Habib has been developed and this has become the profession which now creating the competition. He finds a path dependent interaction in his study between the Neoliberal enterprise and restricting in the inherited institution spaces which indicates three broad categories of change. The first one comprise of Barbers who have humbly incorporated the advancements made in the franchise based salons and are operating in the neighbourhood barber shops. The second's category comprises of the professionally trained barbers who by the virtue of training are now working in the posh localities. The third and the last one, the barbers who have left the profession altogether and indulged in the other profession. He concluded with the observance of the co-existence of traditional and changing attributes in the profession as a parallel reality. He stated that the complex of urban, social and political becomes quite an essential character for defining layout which is understood as Biradri while on the other hand 79ignificant79o of industry affects the livelihood of those who are not well equipped with the transformation brought in profession.

Parallel Session: 5 Crime, Criminals and Forensics

The session was Chaired by Prof. Rajendar Singh and Co-chaired by Mr. Rajeev

The first speaker **Mr. Suraj Kataria** talked on the "Revisiting Criminal Rehabilitation by Incorporating Genetic Perspectives: A Review". He emphasized on the background of genetics in crime. He further discussed on a growing number of genetic polymorphisms have been linked to anti-social behaviors. Environmental influence on gene and plasticity of genetic components were major focus of this presentation. He further discussed that genetics can be an important tool to understand the different aspects of criminal rehabilitations. Understanding gene-environment interaction can be crucial for successful rehabilitation of genetically predisposed convicts.

Rehabilitation can be made more effective if intervention programs incorporate the theories of gene-environment interactions. Through the review, we argue that there is an urgent need to include genetic perspectives in intervention programs for effective criminal rehabilitation.

Another speaker **Ms. Prashita Dabas** deliberated on the “Forensic DNA Phenotyping for the prediction of externally visible characters in Indian population”. She talked about DNA phenotyping and its advantages in the beginning and further emphasized about the unavailability of suspects for comparative DNA analysis, may cause the case to remain pending for a long time, in the absence of any other leading information. The identification of disaster victims and unidentified bodies where visual identification is not reliable, the absence of antemortem data can be a huge setback. A new era of DNA intelligence has arrived in forensic genetics due to the impending ability of SNPs to predict externally visible characters (EVCs) from biological material found at the crime scene. After that she emphasized on several review of literature related to her studies and leads to conclusions on the association of SNPs with quantitative skin pigmentation levels in Indian population.

The third speaker **Ms. Joycy Vungneihchoi** presented her work entitled “Is Crime against women a trend?”. She elaborated a brief background about the place of women in ancient Indian culture and elaborated the data of NCRB (Secondary information). She explained that crime against women has always been a trending research topic, prevailing since times in memory and still exists till date. India needs to wake up from these blindfolds and make some changes to uplift the status of women from being considered as assets. Her study was based on University Camus girls. Her present study takes into account different factors responsible for increasing crime against women where she found out that 89% of respondents were the victims of crime and women felt hard to open about victim of crime.

The next speaker of this session was **Ms. Farzana**, who talked about “Comparative study of finger-ball dermatoglyphics and its Indices among Bhil and Jaunsari Females”. She gave a brief introduction of dermatoglyphics and its importance in Forensic science. Her research work was based on rajasthan and Uttarakhand. She further discussed pattern type indices on the results. She further shows the test of Significance i.e., χ^2 – test and t -test were also done. Among the entire sample loop showed the highest frequency among both groups; followed by whorls; while arches were found lowest in frequency among both groups, respectively.

The next presenter was **Ms. Shivani Tyagi** presented her work on “DNA Methylation and Forensic Age prediction”. She primarily discussed about age prediction can play a vital role which can provide significant information pertinent to legal, criminal, and anthropological estimations. It has the value similar to the prediction of Externally Visible characteristics (EVCs) or bio-geographical ancestry. She further emphasized on DNA methylation and epigenetic markers of ageing-DNA methylation. She further focuses on the dynamics of DNA Methylation patterns influencing the aging rates and its implications in forensic science which further emphasizes on the clause to the existing and future studies.

The last presenter was **Ms. Kusum Ghosh** presented her work on “Human Lanugo and Vellus Hair: Sexual Dimorphism and its Forensic Implications”. She primarily focuses on the importance of hair study in Forensic science, forensic anthropology as well as in Anthropology. She further emphasized on the structure, types and the importance of hair and her present study based on 250 lanugo hair strands (125 males and 125 females) obtained from spontaneously aborted fetus (around 3 months) and 1650 vellus hair strands (Male 800 and female 850) obtained from the newborns. It appears from the result that the lanugo hair shows less variation in quantitative characters except the hair length, while the vellus hair both the length and diameter demonstrate significant sexual dimorphism along with histomorphological medullary characters. She concluded that sexual dimorphism of hair histomorphological (medullation) and quantitative characters (length and shaft diameters) could be a reliable in terms of important and inexpensive method of forensic study even in fetal and newborn hair.

Scientific Session 8

Parallel Session 1: Tribal World: Development, Displacement and Challenges

The session was chaired by Prof. S. Sumathi and Co-chair by Dr. Rajesh Gururaj Kundargi

The first speaker of this session **Anima Sharma** presented on the topic *Impact of Planned Development Programmes and Policies on the Ethno-Medical System of a Central Indian Tribe*. To be healthy and to stay healthy is the birth right of every human being. Every society finds out ways to cope up with the unpleasant situations arisen due to the dis-equilibrium in their health-status. This presentation was a part of an earlier published material by the speaker, bringing into focus the role of developmental policies in promoting, conserving and documenting the corpus of ethno-medicinal practices. To combat with such situations the indigenous population living in deep forests depend upon their surrounding flora and fauna, and use different types of herbs, shrubs, animals, birds and geographical items to prepare medicines for different types of diseases. But the forest policies; invasion of the outsiders and development programmes have limited their access to their age-old life- sustaining resource and has left them in utter confusion. This change has made them the thief in their own homeland. Limiting their access and restricting them to enter the places where they used to roam around freely have also affected their religious life. Their sacred grooves are usually deep in the forests. Also, for few of their magico-religious practices related to their healing system and medical system they have to perform certain activities in the forests. This has brought tremendous change in their life- pattern. Therefore, it was felt necessary to focus upon these aspects, touching the medico- religious healing practices, Ethno- medical system viz a viz the impact of planned development among indigenous population of central India.

The second presentation was deliberated by **Neera Gautam** on the topic Changing facets of the Jaunsari tribe. Uttrakhand is a home land of five tribes, namely The Bhotiya, The Jaunsari, The Buxa, The Tharu and the Raji. Amongst them the Jaunsari tribe is the largest tribal group

constituting 38.78 percent of the tribal population of the state. The Jaunsaris practice unique customs and traditions. They have been a subject of great interest to the historians, anthropologists and sociologists because of their polyandrous – patriarchal family system. Under the sway of forces of developmental plans and educational programmes, the Jaunsari people have witnessed changes in their socio-cultural milieu. The study signified on the changes in the family system of the Jaunsari tribe and the trends of migration. The position of women portrayed in the Jaunsari tribe was also reflected with respect to marriage and dowry system functioning there. The speaker was vocal regarding the marked sense of inequality between the male and the female members, due to the existing patriarchal system engaging the women in subsistence agriculture without any inheritance rights. Although educational attainment has improved, inter-caste marriage are still not favoured due to the rigidities of the caste system. The Jaunsaris with their contact with other communities, has developed an informal dowry system that goes without saying. The education attainment in the studied population sample was found to be 39.67% illiterates without any intermediate or graduate. There were instances of underage marriage among the males and females since most of the families were joint vertical in nature. There were present instances of joint fraternal polyandry (11%) and joint polygamous (10%) found among the sample families. The highest number of out-migrant population are employed in the government sector with males as majority. To conclude the discussion, the speaker summed up that Jaunsari society is undergoing transition, the major visible one is the extinction of polyandry among the descendants of “Draupadi” from Mahabharata. Being influenced by the ceremonial formalities of social assimilation, they have showed positive attitude towards dowry, yet unwelcoming towards inter-caste marriage.

The third speaker **Miss Ritika** from Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University, presented on Challenges and constraints in upliftment of Paharia Tribes of Bihar: A PVTGs. Miss Ritika introduced the Paharia tribes of Bihar from ethno-historic context while stating the objectives of the study to be signified on finding the educational and health status, the impact of different developmental programmes and to explore the factors that pose to be an obstacle to their development. Although Tribal population in India constitute about 8.6% of the total population out of which 75 are declared as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Since inception of Jharkhand in 2000, very less attention has been given to tribes of Bihar particularly Paharia tribes. Paharias residing in interiors of Kahalgaon and Pirpainty block has been chosen. At these places mostly Sauria paharias are found. They claim to be the original paharias as they still preserve their culture, tradition and language. Considering themselves to be the descendants of the Sun God, they have significant belief of staying atop the mountains where the first sun rays touches the land. From the empirical findings, the Sauria Paharias live in abject poverty with lack of clean drinking water and insufficient food resources. The Paharia do not have necessary social and economic strength nor do they have sufficient productive assets. The problems faced by Paharias are unemployment, exploitation by non-tribal, poor health status and illiteracy. They are not able to take advantage of the assistance offered by the government because of the communication problem and cultural differences. The majority of them still

follow rules of clan, and give importance to middle man in arranging marriage in their family. Acceptance of employment programmes like MNREGA has increased social acceptance among the tribal, however due to cultural differences and communication problem, they are not able to take advantage of the assistance offered by the Government. Miss Ritika shared her observation in terms of financial restraints and alcoholism being directly related, as the addiction results into acute health problems, indebtedness and exploitation by moneylenders. Lack of awareness towards their rights, malnutrition, and inaccessible drinking water has brought upon several health distress as well. The fact that majority of Paharia tribes have APL card depriving them of BPL subsidies which they should be getting in the first place. She concluded with the remarks that illiteracy, poor health status, unemployment, pathetic agricultural conditions are hindering the path of tribal development. Ineffective public delivery system and minimal reach of social sector programmes hardly helps in improving their lifestyle and living conditions.

The last topic of this session was presented by **Miss Dejna Daulagupu** from University of Delhi, on Grappling with development: A case study of Umrangso, Assam. The empirical study was conducted in 2020 to identify the issues and challenges faced by the tribal locals as a result of industrialization, thereby affecting the tribal economy. Through this presentation, using visual aids and photographs, Miss Dejna gave a contextual understanding of sustainable ecological and cultural alternatives as well as the role of autonomous council in mitigating and managing the industrial development. Through historical timeline, the growth of mining and insurgence in Assam was conveyed from the late 19th century to present. The entry of big Cement corporate like Dalmia, has henceforth introduced several changes among the indigenous community. Miss Dejna enlisted that the major transitions were that of in demographic composition shifting and territorial management caused by continual migration. The end of subsistence lifestyle has resulted from more people now forced to participate in commercial production. The loss of flora and fauna have also affected cultural diversity and ethno-medicinal practices, the native language endangered more than ever. However, it was found that the development also chanced upon in improving tourism and boosting the economy with revenues. The impact of industrialization has lowered the ecological standards, with increase in chronic air pollution, acidity of water and loss of forest cover. It was pointed out that the symbiosis of the indigenous with their natural habitat hit hard in August, 2020 with the onset of Paimur protest. This was done against mining in the holy shrine of Mairongma Daoga clan by the Mining Corporations. This was followed by the protest due to illegal stone mining in Diyung river bed, which is the local major water source. The present developmental regulatory policies and provisions are lax in attending to the concerns of the native dwellers, and this grows intense with the conglomeration of mafia nexus of illegal traders with the council. Despite the ban, rat-mining is still operational illegally. Miss Dejna concluded with the notion that more upcoming projects are en-route, the dismay of student unions fighting against the adversities of these industrial development is hindered severely. The fear among the locals in expressing their thoughts and exclusion from participating in the decision making of developmental programmes in their own community stirs up trust issues as to what does this development signifies.

Perspective and componential consideration should be brought into contemporary picture in addressing the issues, while using digital platform and visual presentation.

Parallel Session 2: Primate Behaviour, Biology and Adaptation

The session was chaired by Prof. P.R. Mondal and Co-Chaired by Dr. Subhendu Acharya

D.V. Pezhemsky talked about the history of Russian Indian Expedition which was managed by Paleoethnology research center and State Biology Museum. He explained the series of expedition which have been done in India. His objective was to study the biological and cultural diversity of modern Indian population. He collected the information in various villages of Agartala using Bio-anthropological method like- cephalometry and cephaloscopy, anthropological photography, somatometry, dental anthropology, and dermatoglyphics. Based on the anthropometric measurement different indexes were found to be: facial Index-leptoprosopic, nasal index- mesorhynic, head index was brachycephalic and lip thickness was very high among the population.

Sarmistha Ojha has studied the relationship between human and nonhuman primates with respect to their social behaviour, ecology and anatomy. She talked about various researchers who had done research on non-human primates in India. She had examined the behavioural traits of four captive chimpanzees (three juvenile and one adult: Mastana, Basanti, Chotu and Babu) in relation to their age, sex, frequency and duration and the interaction between human and chimpanzees. She had used Ad libitum sampling, One-zero sampling and photographic methods to observe Chimpanzee's behaviour in captivity in Alipore, Kolkata. She also observed locomotion of chimpanzees like Knuckle walking and poking.

The frequency of behavioral trait "Sit on" (37) was highest in all four chimpanzees followed by "dip in water" (11) and "climb. Hierarchical cluster analysis was performed. She prepared ethnogram and explained her data by using dendogram.

Jayashree Mazumder She has studied that how the social, demographic and ecological factors affecting tool-use behaviour in long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis umbrosus*). She has done her work on long tail macaque of Andaman & Nicobar Island. She has explained that out of 700 species only 5 species were observed to manufacture tools. She also compared that how different species in different climate use tool techniques. She used the focal animal sampling and scan sampling methods for her study. She found that long tail macaque of Andaman and Nicobar show rare behaviour of tool manufacturing that is 1:50-70 episode. She found that they use 8 different types of object in 6 behavioural aspects. Males were more proficient tool user than females. She further explained that macaque of Indian islands are not efficient users of tool than macaques of Thailand, West Africa and Brazil because environment is not suitable for tool

manufacturing in Indian part. As per one behavioural stance long tail macaque share food among the groups for alliance, mating, rise in social status and reciprocal exchange.

Sayak Chakraborty started with defining the Shivalik region and the range of its area. Then he explained the characteristic that Upper Shivalik do not form continuous range but are constitute by out crop of hill rocks. He also discussed about the flora and fauna of that area while discussing the primate fossils of the area. Fossils of primates are also known from Tetrot and Pinjore formations of the Upper Siwaliks of India, namely *Procynocephalus subhimalayanus*, *Presbytis sivalensis*, *Macaca palaeindica*, and *Theropithecus delsoni*. He said that there are more than 150 species of 85 significant are found known from Pliocene and Pleistocene of the region. Further he explained the fluvial cycles were much prominent in paleoecology of upper Shivalik region. He suggested that environment was favourable for the existence of *Homo erectus* in upper Shivalik region.

Ajitesh Mathur studied the major adaptive strategies for adaptation to higher altitude and cold environment which were choice of food, Sowa rigpa or amchi system of medicine and housing patterns among the Basgo village of Ladakh. In food they prefer thukpa, chhutangi, butter tea and chhang. They prefer meat only in occasion because meat is expensive. Due to harsh climatic conditions, they can not cultivate vegetables so they do not take much vegetables in their diet. Amchi is traditional medical practice where they diagnose by visual method, touch and by questioning. Their treatment based on the four components which are diet, behaviour, medicine and external therapies and also Buddhist rituals and mantras help in treatment. In housing patterns, they build 85 significant building where the ground floor is for animal shelter, 1st floor for kitchen and bedroom and top floor is dedicated for guest and family chapel. Their roof is covered by grass which provides insulation and protection from precipitation.

Parallel Session 3: Anthropological Perspectives on Disabilities

The session was chaired by Prof. Geetika Ranjan and Co-Chaired by Dr. Oinam Hemlata Devi. It started with a brief introduction of Panel by the Coordinator Dr. Suniti Yadav

Anoubam Laxmi Devi talked about the stigma and discrimination faced by a person with disability in a meitei society. There are cultural and social stigmas which are faced in rituals and lives by illustrating an example of *apokpa kurumba* which is a ritual to appease the ancestral deities and derogatory names such as *shoinaba*, *namma shoiba* are given. Therefore sensitization programs bursting the myths should be introduced by the social welfare department and at educational institutions.

Dreeti Hazarika talked about inattention, impulsivity and hyperactivity faced by the Persons with Intellectual Disability in Guwahati City, Assam. She covered the aspects of how an individual reacts to function academic skills, personal hygiene, social skills and emergency alerts

in their daily lives. The issues such as emotional, behavioral, sexual and social problems are taken into account to explicit the challenges faced in the day to day lives.

Paramita Das opines on exploring the mental health condition and coping strategies of the mothers of Autistic children by using a qualitative as well as quantitative method. PHQ9 scale is used to measure stress. She put forward the child's behavioral traits, family, social support and worries about the child were some of the factors which were affecting the stress level.

Tajinder Kaur explicated the understanding of disability as a physical, mental, social, wellbeing based on secondary sources. The close inter relationship between individual and community is explored and the last part deals with the role of government and authoritative systems in defining the labelling the disabled population groups in India by elaborating on *divyangjan*.

Tanya Vats narrated the neuro developmental disorder expressing three levels of severity. Various Bollywood and Hollywood movies, documentaries and short films were thrown light to understand the nuances of symptoms experienced by the Autistic individual. The repetitive mode of Asperger syndromes such as rigid, inflexibility in the routines, carving into details. She concluded the presentation by stating the need to understand the social model of autistic.

Parallel Session 4: Climate change, disaster and sustainable development

The session was Chaired by Prof. Anima Sharma and Co-chaired by Dr. Srikanth Yamsani

Pavani Chittem reviewed the difference between custom & customary laws, differentiate customs & customary laws --- such as sacred beliefs, ancient and still in practice, good reason. Mentioned Sustainable Development Goals of the UN that are planned to be achieved by the 2030 and their importance. Reasoned that Customary Laws and Sustainable Development can go hand in hand as it concerned – Human, Social, Economic and Environmental aspects. Mentioned the gonds of utnoor of Adilabad district of Telangana state.

Ankita Chandola discussed the effects of air pollution, possible causes and mitigation measures done by govt. as well as individuals, showed using the infographics. Discussed the issues of air population in different age groups of population.

Hashmat Habib discussed the descending of culture of fishing community and shifting of the community to other alternatives due to the lower demand. Mentioned way forwards Need for Institutional Framework, Awareness of Eco- tourism and vocational training for saving the culture practice.

Camellia Biswas Focused the use of Participatory- Gis Methodology as community integration approach to increase the mitigation measures regarding the cyclones. Various measures and how the border separation between India and Bangladesh played a vital role in mitigation measures. Shelter homes and embankment and the other measures are in progressive stage were mentioned.

Total of 15 members (Dr. Siva Prasad Rambhatta, Dr. Valentina Pakynteia and others delegates) attended the session and in the allowed time after the paper presentation the discussion were made and the session was terminated successfully.

Scientific Session 9

Parallel Session 1: Physical and Mental Health: Issues of Wellbeing

The session was chaired by Dr. Valentina Pakyntein and Co-Chaired Dr. Urfat Anjem Mir

The session was graced by Prof. P. C. Joshi who made a brief visit to the session and acknowledged all the coordinators, chairs, Co-Chairs and researchers for making this session possible.

Neha Yadav, the first speaker of today's session, defined the term "depression" and the association between depression and disease among the Jat population of North India. The aim of this paper was to understand the association between lipid variables and degree of depression. A cross-sectional study was conducted through a household survey method among Jat population of Palwal district of Haryana North India. Variables in this study included TC, TG, HDL, LDL and VLDL. Findings from the current study, presented by the researcher, supported the general hypothesis that naturally occurring low lipid and lipoprotein concentrations are associated with trait measures of depression and anxiety. Among healthy individuals, trait measures of depression and anxiety were negatively and significantly related to Total Cholesterol. In other words, high TC posed a significant decreased risk for moderate/severe depression. In conclusion the researcher said that high TC is playing a protective role for depression and low waist to height ratio is significantly increasing the risk of depression, which indicates that undernutrition is the main culprit for depression in the present population whose effect is surpassed by good nutrition in the present population.

Amna Meraj, the second presenter of this session, initiated the presentation by defining the term "Family Caregivers" and are often said to be a population with unmet needs. Then, with the explanation of "Mental Health", she defined the cost of mental health disorder. The researcher said that unlike that of physical health, the scientific foundations of mental health are not yet clear. Therefore we do not have precise tools to assess the state of mental health unlike physical health. After that, she discussed the significance of this study conducted by her. This study aimed to understand experiences and challenges of family caregivers of people suffering from Mental Health Disorders at a broader level. In order to do so, the research focuses on one of mental health disorders i.e., Bipolar Disorder. The researcher also elaborated the bipolar disorder symptoms such as mania/hypomania and depression. She also explained the need to choose bipolar disorder as an issue of mental health in the society. The information was gathered using observation, informal interactions and interviews. Experiences of caregivers were also explained along with the common experiences they shared. Role reversal experiences of the

caregivers were identified with respect to changes in social role and changes in personal life. These challenges were related to barriers in the communication, lack of emotional control on part of either the caregiver or the patients or moral dilemma in difficult decision making. Coping strategies employed by the patients were also explained with respect to coping with self and patient in depressive phase and manic phase. Common coping strategies employed by caregivers were task oriented coping mechanisms, emotion oriented coping mechanisms and avoidance coping mechanisms. The researcher concludes the paper by saying the experiences of family caregivers of mental health patients depended on the individual's views on mental disorders, attitude in life and their perceived ability to handle the challenges of life. Knowledge and awareness can often become a tool for coping with the situation. And she also explained the limitations of the study along with the acknowledgement.

Shagufta Naaz Ansari began her presentation with an explanation of the global burden of mental disorders. She, then, emphasizes the mental health problems in India, supporting it with examples of deteriorating mental health like domestic violence, road rage incident, farmers' suicide, students' suicide, increasing drug abuse and decreasing life satisfaction. The research defined the coping strategies and stated that little is known about the relationship between coping strategies and mental health outcomes in non clinical settings of India. The presenter explained the aim of the paper to investigate the role of coping strategies in mental health outcomes among the Ramgarhia Sikh community of Delhi. It was a descriptive, cross-sectional type of study, conducted among the Ramgarhia Sikh population of Delhi. The study highlights the high rates of depression and anxiety disorder among the studied population. This finding is similar to previous studies. Also, the findings showed that participants in this study used more adaptive coping strategies as compared to maladaptive coping strategies. The present study implies that there is a need for screening of depression and other common mental health problems at community level. This would promote early identification and prevention of these mental health problems and mental well being. A better understanding of factors that influence the relationship between coping behaviour and mental health outcomes at the community level may guide intervention programs in reducing and management of mental health issues.

Sonuja Nandinee Barik started her presentation by mentioning a trade-off between sleep and work. The aim of this study was to understand the relationship between sleep quality and self-efficacy among students pursuing their PhD. A relationship between sleep quality and self-efficacy which also serves as the aim of the study in which the presenter explained these two variables. They used the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index as the questionnaire for the study. A sample size of 19 students were taken into account and the questionnaires were sent through Google forms by online mode. Primary data were collected through three ways, personal details, PSQI Questionnaire and general self efficacy. The presenter said that maximum people accounted for the sleep as "fairly good". PSQI in relation to self-efficacy was used which included self-efficacy score, component 7 score and global PSQI score. Discrepancy

can also be seen with respect to situational cases. The findings found out 6 major reasons that affect sleep disturbances. It also showed data of daytime sleep dysfunction and PSQI score was used to assess the relation with self efficacy. The findings indicate that there exists a relationship between sleep quality and self-efficacy, and that good sleepers have higher general self-efficacy. The study provides an appreciation of the importance of sleep and how self-administered regulations can help improve performance and cognizance for a higher rate of output among students and scholars. The study also argues why conducting such research at institutional level is necessary and fruitful to address the health, optimal working conditions, and performance level of individuals, be it students or employees. At the end, the presenter provided acknowledgement for the paper.

Parikshit Chakraborty started his presentation by describing what the older population is. He mentioned the fact that India's aged population is currently the second largest in the world, after China. Then, he explained about the activities of daily living (ADL) and said that the activities of daily living statuses assess with respect to eating, dressing, getting in and out of a bed or chair, using the toilet, bathing, and continence; which exposed the degree of independence in terms of daily living activities among the female oldest-old population. The present paper intended to assess the activities of daily living (ADL) among the oldest-old female population who were living in the rural villages under the Medinipur Sadar Block of Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal, India. The study highlighted that the widow oldest old population, who may be home-bound and need assistance in respect of their ADL because on average, the female oldest old people who are living with their spouse enjoy more degree of independence in daily living compared to the oldest-old widow respondents. While discussing the caste/community wise distribution the result stated that the general caste oldest old people have significantly worse ADL scores compared with the tribal oldest old female because the tribal oldest old female population under study area enjoyed more degree of independence in terms of daily living activities compared to the general caste oldest-old female population. The present study exposed that the AOL status and their age group had significant association with each other. The result showed that only 26 had active groups. A graph was also prepared to show the ADL status through group 89significant89on namely scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, Obc and general category. Similarly the study also indicated that AOL status and presence source of care during illness also have significant association. The study demonstrated that, on average, the female oldest old in general caste population are seriously disadvantaged in respect of functional disabilities whether the tribal oldest old female population enjoyed more degree of independence in terms of daily living activities. Finally the study also explained the relation between AOL status and Working status and it was found that the AOL status is highly significant with their working status under study area. At the end, the presenter acknowledged the people who contributed and helped him in this paper.

Shromona Dhara, the last speaker of today's session, started the presentation by asking the question: why do mothers die? The presenter said that when a woman dies the impact is on the surviving children. Then, She also explained the reasons related to mothers' death. Her paper focused on Global interest in maternal health and its morbidity and mortality. It focused its study on the emergence of maternal morbidity all around the world. The theoretical framework of a literature review was based on various determinants such as socio physiological, biond economic, medical and cultural determinants etc. The researcher explained the medical and physiological determinants of obstetric morbidity and mortality alongwith bio-cultural determinants ie., age at pregnancy, parity and birth spacing and contraceptive behaviour and abortion. Then, the cultural and behavioural aspect of health seeking was explained that involved preventive care seeking (attending scheduled checkups and institutional delivery) and curative care seeking (emergency). The research elaborated the "three delay model" i.e., decision to seek care, identifying and reaching medical facilities and receipt of adequate and appropriate treatment. Then the presenter talked about the interventions to enhance maternal health in India such as Janani Suraksha Yojana. Also, the state, Assam had the highest prevalence of teen pregnancy and anaemia and nutritional issues. With the passage of time the maternal mortality ratio has come down significantly. But, the rural Indian women still suffer from a high burden of morbidity during labour and puerperium at home with frequent postpartum problems. The paper concluded with the statement that morbidity profile and obstacles understanding in India should be given importance to obtain maximum outcomes in maternal health and wellbeing. Thereafter, India needs to focus on the epidemiology of maternal morbidity and mortality through micro-level studies, to understand acceptability, accessibility, and utilization of formal healthcare facilities to ensure an unscathed maternal health profile athwart the country through the implementation of culturally sensitive program and policies.

Parallel Session 2: Tribal World: Development, Displacement and Challenges

The session was coordinated by Dr. M. Kennedy Singh and chaired by Prof. Dipak K. Midya. Co-chair of this session was Dr. Subeno Kithan.

The session was started with the first presentation on the topic "Merits and demerits of modernization on Gaddi tribes of Himachal Pradesh" **Shivanshi Nehria**. The study was conducted in "Kangra" and "Chamba" district of Himachal Pradesh among the Gaddis tribes. Firstly the socio-cultural characteristics of the Gaddi population were elaborated. A Socio-cultural change among the Gaddi Nomads was described by analyzing the primary as well as secondary data. She emphasized about ddistribution and migration of Gaddis from Chamba's Bharmour region to Kangra due to the seasonal adversity of this area.. In the present study, the advantages and disadvantages of modernization were well-described. The modernization somewhere a cause of threat to the culture as modern popular trend was found to be diffused

with their existing culture. Gaddi dialects are about to vanish and about to come in endangered category as they prefer speaking in Kangri dialect and Hindi language. They were also taking step toward the protection of their identity as indigenous culture of our country such as representation of their socio-cultural traditions on the social media platform. Multiple Gaddi community groups were created and thousands of Gaddi people have been joining these groups. They were observed to be putting their efforts even crossing the boundaries and participating in “Surajkund Mela” and organizing cultural events at different popular sites. The advantages of modernization among Gaddis were also mentioned such as abolition of some rituals like “Parda system” and their participation in local political system was increased. Different technologies (such as mobile technology, internet etc.) has rendered an ease to the life of Nomads. The sphere of occupation was also observed to be widened.

Second presentation was delivered by **Muthuvel D** on the topic “Anthropologies of Governance and Policy Making”. With an appropriate reason, Muthuvel D was not able to present his topic.

Third presentation was delivered by **Bikimoni Gogoi** on the topic “Indigenous Foodways of the Adi Tribe”. To begin with, she explains about the inhabitation of Adi tribe. Indigenous foodways to adi tribes and utilization of various indigenous resources was focused in this paper. She also laid an emphasis on food preference of Adi tribes, their indigenous foods and drinks, methods of preparation of their traditional food (boiling, roasting, fry), method of preservation of foods (such as blien), usage of spices and condiments (such as garlic , ginger , black papper etc.), usage of medicinal plants (ongin, bojo, banko etc.). The food taboos practiced by Adi tribes were explained in her paper. Some of changes were found to be percolated in the food choices but they were preserving their preference of choosing traditional food over the modern food. Lastly, she explained about the occupation of Adi tribes and division of work among men and women. Their festival related to harvesting was presented pictorially.

Fourth presentation was given by **Richa Joshi** on the topic “The Interface between Land and Gender: Reflection from the Tribal Community in Uttarakhand, India.” The central question of this paper revolves around the social arrangements and negotiations in relation to land between men and women. This study was based on empirically examining the narratives on inheritance of land practices and how women keep negotiating their position and status in the traditional society. She conducted her study among Rana Tharu, who is largely populated in the Udham Singh Nagar district, Uttarakhand. On the basis of her field work conducted in Rana Tharu, she explored about the de jure and de facto entitlement to land, the inheritance patterns, the user rights for men and women provided through legal as well as by customary practices, and the resulting changes in the social position of women embedded in the kinship and marital status of a woman. Her study also highlighted about the various nuances of negative connotations and stigma associated with social as well as economic position in relation to the inheritance and decision making of land by women in their parental as well marital home. There is an enormous gap between the land rights incorporated in law and the inheritance pattern practice in ground.

Law perceives women as men while women used to not raise the voice for her rights as she always tend to avoid conflicts with her siblings well as to maintain her dignity and peace in the family.

Fifth presentation was delivered by **Anil Gopi** on the topic “Participatory Research, Indigenous Methodology and Visual Ethnography – Enquiries on the Possibilities in Tribal Studies”. His study is an attempt toward an emerging method of anthropology with a big scope of further study in India. This paper inquired mainly about the various methods used by different researchers such as Participatory method by Robert chambers (1994), indigenous methodology by different authors and the method of PRA was compared with other method given by outsider researcher (such as Linda smith). By using visual anthropology preferably, the social life and culture of the community was described. Painting done by the individual and primary informant and the interpretation of their painting was used as a tool to collect the information. In the few of his slides, a set of amazing paintings to show the tribal life, culture and their social activities was presented. The painter and his works was itself emphasizing on tribal life and culture. He tried to develop a new methodology with the thinking of possibility of this method as an effective method of social anthropology.

Sixth presentation was delivered by **Arul Actovin** (Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University on the topic “Livelihood Challenges of Uraly Tribes”. First and foremost, she compares the condition of Uraly tribes with other SC, OBC and other tribal population. She described about Characteristics of the population on the basis of the variables such as age, gender, marital status, occupation, religion, family type, educational qualification, income & landholdings. Descriptive study was conducted among 40 families of Gundri Panchayat of Erode district, Tamilnadu. Dependency of Livelihood on different occupation such as forest, agriculture was highlighted. This paper provides contemporary challenges affecting the livelihood of Uraly tribes, ranging from illiteracy, poverty to poor infrastructure facilities. According to the finding of paper, it was predicted that the 92 significant list of livelihood issues would aid in developing a sound comprehension of the prevailing factors and would help in planning and administration of necessary welfare policies and programmes for the tribal populace under consideration. Impact of FRA on this cultural life of tribes was added in the last after the question answer session.

Seventh presentation was delivered by **Prachi Mittal** on the topic “A Study of the Impact of Development Interventions on the Socio-Economic Life of the PVTGs of Odisha”. She started with introducing PVTG in India, its administrative development and micro planning for socio-economic development. In addition, she elaborated about PVTG of Odisha, inhabitants of PVTG in different geographical region of Odisha and administrative mechanism of PVTGs of Odisha. The impact of development interventions (set up by the government) on the socioeconomic life of 13 major PVTGs of Odisha was explained in this study. The impact of development interventions on economic development, infrastructural development and educational

development was elaborated further. The study was an attempt to draw parallelism between the interventions and its impacts as well as proving or disproving the effect of these micro projects in the concerned PVTGs.

Parallel Session 3: Mental Health and Wellbeing

Dr. Suniti Yadav started the session by introducing the chairperson Prof. Sunita Reddy and co – chairperson Dr. Sonia Kaushal. Among four speakers, three speakers presented their study.

Rashmi Patel based her study in Lucknow and fieldwork was performed in clinics. She focused her presentation on infertility and concepts related to infertility. The role of conception was also highlighted. She explained a particular case study of a woman who suffered from failure of IVF cycle and what she had to deal with after the failure. The speaker also threw light on the relationship of the couple and how the close knit relationship helps in dealing with mental health.

Apoorva Sharma provided data on both physical and social factors with statistical analysis of prevailing infertility. Her study focused on the association of infertility with psychosocial adjustments. She used demographic data and case control study. Her findings provided the influence of infertility on psychological health. Women have higher risk of infertility and that demography plays an important role.

Aarti Nawathe gave the importance of maternal health and how different factors are responsible for its deterioration. The factors ranged from psychiatric illness, interpersonal relationships, marriage related stress, etc. In the discussion section, it was discussed that data related to infertility should be collected both quantitatively and qualitatively and also, how the male fraternity perceives infertility. Awareness on such issues need to be spread more.

Parallel Session 4: Anthropological Reflections on COVID-19

The session was Chaired by Prof. Deepshikha Agarwal and Co-Chaired Dr. Khirod Moharana. Prof. Deepshikha Agarwal talked of how COVID-19 pandemic is a first time experience which has affected directly or indirectly to everyone giving everyone a unique experience and we Anthropologist are always on the way of understanding. Social distancing has been a major tool as prevention against the spread of the disease but it is the wrong term. Physical distancing should be the right term as we are still connected to one another through phones and internet. The manner with which it has affected has different experiences from those families who lost their loved ones to the stigma attached to the family and patients affected by the disease. Now, we have come out of the situation and have changed our perspective, with the world changed in a big way.

First speaker **Doraboina Udaya Kumar** started with a brief introduction about the Akbarnivas Kandriga Village, with emphasis on the low level of literacy. This he says is because of the lack of interest in education and parents not being supportive of education and taking them to the field

for agricultural, fishing activities, and the main occupation of yarn weaving. He focuses on the general socio-economic conditions of the village, traditional medicine which was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The village is faraway from the city and the nearest town was 4-5 km walks from the village, which was an issue for lack of medical facilities available to them. He emphasized on the lack of information of the disease among the people and the growth of panic through news from TV and media. No official came to give information regarding the disease, and because of the fear people did not even move out of their homes even in cases of deaths of neighbors or festival. He explained how the Yanadi community use their knowledge on traditional medicine to avoid the contraction of the disease, and because of their supernatural beliefs they worship their local Gods in their homes among the Hindus. He concluded by giving suggestions for improvement of the village; to provide medical facilities nearby, proper guidance regarding schemes and programmes, incentives to take up online education, and more job opportunities for the Yanadi community.

Punam Paul started by introducing her work as a review work from secondary data sources and not an ethnographic or empirical work. She focuses on understanding the concept and notion of hidden structural violence. She talks about the field of medical anthropology and how it came to be and coming to Critical medical anthropology (CMA), that is a branch of medical anthropology which blends critical theory and ground-level ethnographic approaches in the consideration of the political economy of health, and the effect of social inequality on people's health. She emphasized that according to CMA, disease is not just the straightforward result of a pathogen or physiological disturbance, instead a variety of social problems such as malnutrition, economic insecurity, occupational risks, industrial pollution, substandard housing, and political powerless contribute to susceptibility to disease. She explained that structural violence is the natural expression of a political and economic order that seems as old as slavery and that social inequalities are at the heart of structural violence. She talked about the approach that is committed to ethnographically embedding evidence within the historically given social and economic structures that shape life so dramatically on the edge of life and death. She emphasized on the importance and need to study the concept and hidden notions of Structural violence which is a less studied topic under Critical medical Anthropology. The speaker presents some highlighted traces of structural violence in different parts of India during COVID-19 pandemic from a number of secondary sources. She concluded by quoting A. L. Kroeber's statement, "the most humanistic of the sciences and the most scientific of the humanities", and the need to highlight structural violence hidden in people's notion.

Subhradeep Pathak talked about his own experience who have gone through the COVID-19 pandemic as a co-sufferer as everyone who has lived through this pandemic has suffered in one way or the other. He emphasized on the importance to document one's journey and tell a story, expressing one's experiences with story is a medium. He is of the opinion that if his story can bring out the story of others, his auto ethnography would have been fruitful. The speaker focuses on depicting the narratives of stigma and fear in context of COVID-19 infection and how as a consequence of such an infection, family members become co-sufferers. He then talks about why he calls it an auto ethnography and not an ethnography as he has lived through these experiences and reflected upon it. He stressed that his insights have been provided by recollecting the personal memories of being infected with the coronavirus and living through the pandemic; the lockdown, going back home, getting infected, etc. He focuses on the emotional well-being of closest family members to reflect upon two things, first, transformation of relationship between

them and second, the role of ambiguity, helplessness and inaccessibility in contributing to their sufferings. He concluded on how this year has been a liminal year for himself, breaking out of his old self and accepting of new things to come and the importance of documenting such experiences which gives perspective to the notion of well-being beyond the body of the sufferer to the mental well-being of the care givers.

Henry Konjengbam emphasized the dynamic concept of stress and perceived stress. He says that perceived stress experiences differ amongst individuals due to a number of factors which includes psychological, physical and socio-economic factors, and that with the outbreak of COVID-19, the impact on mental health has been unavoidable. He then talks about the dimension of understanding stress through Ayurveda, an ancient medicine system of India. The speaker focuses on the association of bio-social parameters including prakriti body types with perceived stress levels amidst COVID-19 pandemic. He talks about methodology on how data was collected from 390 individuals, age ranging from 18-45 years, through an online survey and Prakriti body types were determined by prakriti assessment questionnaire, stress level was assessed by using Perceived Stress Scale (PSS 10). The speaker pointed out 95 significant association ($p < 0.05$) found in body mass index (BMI), prakriti body types, sex, and effects of COVID – 19 on mental and physical well-being with perceived stress levels. He presented his data and showed that vata prakriti (19.71%), underweight individuals (12.65%), and females (11.44%) were significantly more prone to develop high to moderate stress, salaried individuals are significantly less likely to be affected by moderate stress. He concluded that there is a significant association of biosocial parameters including prakriti body types with perceived stress levels amidst COVID – 19 pandemic and highlighted the important aspect of prakriti body types response to stress that can be used in bringing about a holistic approach to more effective stress management techniques inculcating the Ayurveda concepts.

Valedictory Session

The session started with felicitation of the chief guest Prof. Balram Pani. Dr. Mitra, then invited Prof. Sachdeva to welcome the guests. Prof. Sachdeva welcomed Prof. Pani, Prof. Paparao, Prof. Basa, Prof. Shobo Ray, Prof Rita Singh and other dignitaries. He expressed satisfaction at successful organization of the event. He thanked everyone for their presence and participation.



Photo: Prof. Sachdeva facilitating Prof. Pani

Dr. Mitra invited the convener Prof. Mondal to give the concluding remarks. Prof. Mondal gave a brief summary of the three days of the congress. He highlighted that more than 250 papers were presented in 9 scientific sessions of the conference encompassing a broad range of topics.



Photo: Prof. Mondal delivering his address

Host then invited the guest of honour Prof. Paparao to deliver his address. Prof. Paparao highlighted the theme of the congress and expressed satisfaction at academic output of the congress. He also pointed out the key highpoints of the congress which were the memorial lectures in memory of late Prof. Das, Prof. Dube and Prof. Srivastava and the round table organized under the chairmanship of Prof Basa. He hoped that many more such events are organized in future.



Photo: Prof. Paparao addressing the congress

After the address of Prof. Paparao, host invited Prof Balram Pani to deliver chief guest address.



Photo: Prof. Balram Pani addressing the congress

Prof. Pani started his address by stating the fact that Anthropology is very famous in Odisha due to rich ethnic diversity. Reflecting on the theme of the congress, he said that if theory is not put

to practice, then theory in itself has limited utility. He concluded his address by appreciating the efforts of the Department in organizing the event.

Following the address, Dr. Mitra asked the participants to give their opinion and feedback on the congress. Prof. Indu Talwar congratulated the department for organizing a successful conference. Prof. Vibha Joshi expressed happiness over blended mode of the conference. She said that this is probably the way forward. Other participants also appreciated the dual mode of organization.



Photo: Participants Indian Anthropology Congress

Dr. Mitra, then, asked the Head of the Department to facilitate organizing secretary Prof. K. N. Saraswathy, which she gracefully shares with Dr. Avitoli and Dr. Mahajan.



Photo: Prof. Sachdeva facilitating Prof. Saraswathy

Finally the host invited Prof. Subho Roy for vote of thanks.



Photo: Prof. Subho Roy delivering vote of thanks

Prof. Roy congratulated the University of Delhi for successful completion of the Congress. He, then, thanked Prof. Joshi, Prof. Sachdeva, Prof. Manoj Kumar, Prof. Mondal, Prof. Saraswathy, Prof. Murry, Dr. Mitra, Dr. Avitoli Zhimo, Dr. Vipin Gupta, Dr. Kennedy Singh, Dr. Shivani Chandel, Dr. Kiranmanala Devi, Dr. Mitashree Srivastava and Dr. Suniti Yadav. He also thanked the support staff. He thanked the INCAA members as well for their constructive role in planning and organizing the congress. In the end he thanked all the participants collectively and individually for their presence and participation. Conference concluded with the vote of thanks by Prof. Subho Roy.