

Recent Books of Anthropology and Archaeology – February 2008

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Popular religion and ascetic practices : New studies on Mahima Dharma / Edited by Ishita Banerjee-Dube and Johannes Beltz
New Delhi : Manohar Publishers and Distributors, c2008

253 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Includes index.

81-7304-756-1

\$ 18.50

[This volume brings together new research by India and German scholars on Mahima dharma of Orissa. It combines anthropological insights, historical research and textual analyses to offer a wide variety of perspectives on this popular yet relatively unknown religion. Perspectives which have taken shape in field experience in orissa and research in Germany.]

History, Archaeology and culture of Narmada Valley / R.K. Sharma

New Delhi : Sharada Publishing House, 2007

81-88934-45-3

\$ 62.50

[The present publication is the logical outcome of the proceedings of University Grants Commission sponsored National Seminars "History and Archaeology of the Narmada Valley Problems and Perspectives" and "Narmada Valley Culture through the Ages- A study in Distinct identity" held at the C.P. Mahila Mahavidyalaya, a Postgraduate College affiliated to Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, M.P. Forty five selected research papers published in this volume throw light of the latest trends of investigations conducted in the Valley of the Narmada. The aspects covered are: Geoarchaeology, Prehistory, Protohistory, Ancient, Medieval and modern history, Art, Architecture and Painting, Numismatics and Epigraphy, Literature, Philosophy and Religion, Efforts have been made to conclude that in the different phases of their History and Culture the people of the Valley of the Narmada have always tried to maintain a distinct identity of their own and this continues even today.]

The battle for ancient India : An essay in the Sociopolitics of Indian Archaeology / Dilip K. Chakrabarti

New Delhi : Aryan books international, 2008

978-81-7305-341-2

\$ 10.00

[A number of issues regarding the study of ancient India have recently emerged in the public domain. The most important of them are the Sarasvati Project, Aryan invasion theory, the textbook controversy in India and California and the language of the Indus civilization. The intensity of debate on each of these issues is reminiscent of religious clashes. Much of this debate is also not limited to professional historians and archaeologists. The mass of data and opinions, which are currently available on the internet and have frequently been published in the media, can no longer be

ignored by anybody interested in ancient India. Some professional analysis of this development has long been called for. This book is in response to this need. It first states the author's position on each of these issues, but more importantly, critically examines their rationale. By studying the socio-political implications of some of the current assumptions of Indian archaeology and by noting their associations with different scholars and scholarly groups, it demonstrates that even the apparently remote conclusions about India's prehistoric, protohistoric and early historic past have sub-texts of various kinds and that these sub-texts have different socio-political implications and agends.]

Traditional knowledge systems and archaeology / Edited by D.P. Agrawal (et.all)

New Delhi : Aryan books international, 2007

Xvi+174p.; 25cm.

Includes Bibliography

81-7305-334-0

\$ 31.25

[The traditional knowledge systems (TKS) are the corpus of accumulated folk knowledge gained through train and error through trial and error through millennia. This folk knowledge therefore has a parental relationship to the elite science. The micro-variations of the ambient harsh environment of the hills have been responsible for the extremely rich community knowledge systems and a biodiversity necessary for sustainability of human life here. The mountain people also cultivate many lesser known crops and medicinal plants and this biodiversity is of immense value for the future, for genetics, health and breeding.]

Trends in Anthropological demography / A.N. Sharma

New Delhi : Sarup and Sons Publishers, 2007

219 p.

Includes Index

81-7625-813-X

\$ 15.00

Health studies in Anthropology / A.N. Sharma

New Delhi : Sarup and Sons Publishers, 2007

228 p.

Includes Index

81-7625-812-1

\$ 15.00

Archaeology of the Chotanagpur division (Jharkhand) / Dilbar Bhengra

New Delhi : Agam Kala Prakashan, 2007

200 p. : ill. ; 26 cm

81-7320-063-7

\$ 27.50

Art treasures of Unkoti, Tripura / G.C. Chauley

New Delhi : Agam Kala Prakashan, 2007

96 p. : ill. 23 cm

81-7320-066-1

\$ 12.50

Essays on rock art and Archaeology on India (Prof. Shankar Tiwari Comm. Volume) / Edited by Chakravartti

New Delhi : Agam Kala Prakashan, 2007
230 p. : ill. ; 29 cm
81-7320-072-6
\$ 37.50

The Naga Society / Chandrika Singh
New Delhi : Manas Publications, 2008
Includes Index
81-7049-333-1
\$ 12.50

[The Naga Society comprising of various tribes and sub-tribes belonging to Indo-mongoloid race and now inhabited in the north-eastern region of India isolated from the civilized world, the nagas remained confined to the villages and relied on minimum needs of the life based on tribal customary laws and conventional practice, till the British subjugated them and seized their territory. Everything began to change in the Naga society with the changes in their concepts when they came close to the outside world. The march of the Naga society from traditionally to modernization, need through investigation, close observation and critical interpretation. The book explores the origin and growth of the Nagas and analyses various critical circumstances through which the society had passed. The book would be of immense help to those who have the curiosity to know the Nagas, their history, culture, politics, struggle for peace and development, etc.]

The Everyday Life of Hindu Nationalism : An Ethnographic Account /Shubh Mathur
New Delhi : Three Essays Collective, 2008
xvi, 224p.;
81-88789-43-7
\$ 15.00

This is an ethnographic account of the rise of Hindu nationalism in the north Indian state of Rajasthan during the period 1990-94.

It looks at the transformation of cultural meanings in everyday life that make possible the political success and the anti-minority violence of the Hindu right. Media and academic accounts of the Hindu right that present images of religious frenzy and fanaticism are misleading because they draw attention away from the world of the everyday and the ordinary, from the homes, workplaces, schools and communities where the realities of Hindu nationalism are created and maintained.

This book takes seriously the claims of RSS activists that theirs is a cultural organization, and that its main task is 'character- building', in order to answer the central

question: How does one comprehend the selves that are capable of the extraordinary violence witnessed in India at the turn of the millennium?

The patterns of anti-minority violence that accompanies the rise of Hindu nationalism show that it follows not a political or economic logic, but a cultural one. The geographic and demographic distribution of violence maps and confirms cultural beliefs about the nation and its enemies. Finally, this book argues that media and academic discourses on Hindu nationalism function to produce what has been called 'cultural anesthesia', diffusing and deflecting questions about agency and accountability while silencing the experience of the victims and excluding the cultural idioms which provide them means of comprehension and healing.

Marriage in Tribal Societies : (Cultural Dynamics and Social Realities) / Edited by Tamo Mibang

New Delhi : Book well, 2007

xviii, 325 p. ; 24 cm.

Includes Index.

81-89640-35-6

\$ 20.00

[The papers included in this volume have discussed the marriage system of various ethnic communities of Arunachal Pradesh in a cultural perspective.]

IUAES Inter Congress on : Mega Urbanization, Multi-Ethnic Society Human Rights and Development – / Edited by Buddhadeb Chaudhuri

New Delhi : Inter-India Publications, c2007

5v p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

81-210-0429-2(Set)

\$ 125.00 (Set)

[Volume 1 : Trends of Anthropological Research : Emerging Challenges and Response

Volume 2 : Urbanization and Multi-Ethnic Society

Volume 3 : Anthropology and Human Rights in Contemporary Era

Volume 4 : Indigenous people Traditional Wisdom and Sustainable Development

Volume 5 : Health, Environment Development and Other essays : Anthropological perspectives.

Many developing countries are pluralistic in nature and have their own characteristics based on ethnicity, which is often related to communalism, said to responsible for human rights are not just individual or political rights. These rights are not just individual or political rights. These Rights should be considered in a much broader context. Finally, development has to be seen in the context of globalization process, the relation of development with environments, the question of growth, growth with justice and equality. Any cross-cultural discussion on these issues is very helpful and rewarding to formulate the proper development strategy.

Though growth of mega cities is the general global trend, at some places, the rate has gone down indicating significant rural development in the region. Does in mean we make our observations in the regional context too for a complete analysis? The present volumes deal with all these questions in minute details by experts in their own field.]

Colonial Archaeology in South Asia : the legacy of Sir Mortimer Wheeler / Himanshu Prabha Ray

New Delhi : Oxford University Press, c2008

xii, 291 p. ; 22 cm

Includes Index

978-0-19-569077-4

0-19-569077-X

\$22.00

[This book discusses the practice and institutionalization of the discipline of archaeology under British rule and its current manifestations. Using Sir Mortimer Wheeler's tenure as the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (1944-48), it assesses the extent to which colonial intervention shaped the nascent discipline in South Asia.]

The study investigates two important areas generally neglected in most histories of archaeology of the subcontinent- conservation practices and the display of archaeological artifacts in museums. It also examines topical questions like the government control of academic discipline like archaeology and the role of the disciplines like the postcolonial period.]

The Central Narmada Valley : a study in Quaternary Palaeontology and Allied Aspects / G.L. Badam

New Delhi : D.K. Printworld (P) Ltd., 2007

xxviii, 210 p. : ill. ; 29 cm.

Includes Bibliography and Index.

81-246-0425-8

\$ 40.00

[The book The central Narmada Valley: A study in Quaternary Palaeontology and Allied Aspects is the first attempt at studying a small stretch of the valley from a multi-disciplinary point of view incorporating the results of arch-aeology, geology, palaeontology and taphonomy. New techniques and parameters have been applied to study and re-interpret these areas. This book also summarizes the morphology, distribution pattern and evolutionary history of certain extinct animals in relation to cultural development. With the help of modern analogies, the book attempts to build up a palaeoecological model for Narmada and its sur-rounding areas including some of the rock shelter sites.

The book extends the dimensions of understanding the life history of Narmada and its tributaries, not only by discovering and reinterpreting various biological and cultural events, but also by seeking to understand varied aspects like river behaviour, flood history and man-land relation-ship during the past.]

Material culture of the Orissan tribal / Nityananda Patnaik

New Delhi : D.K. Printworld (P) Ltd., 2007

xi, 207 p. : ill. and Maps ; 23 cm

81-246-0422-3 (HB)

81-246-0423-1 (PB)

\$ 12.00 (HB)

\$ 8.00 (PB)

[The book contains the material culture of the three sub-groups of the Kondhs, a major tribal community of Orissa, situated in the districts of Koraput, Kalahandi and Phulbani. It examines the cultural life aspects of the Kutia Kondhs, the Dongaria Kondhs and the Malia Kondhs which remarkably differs from one another even though there is much commonality in their social and cultural life.

With numerous illustrations of their settlements, artifacts and art objects, item of material culture and plans of their houses, the book deals with similarities in socio-cultural, religious and aesthetic aspects of their life- varying occupations, habitats, ecosystems and housing types. It attempts to show that a study of their material culture reveals unity in diversity. For the purpose, it deals with their household objects, quest for good personal care, dress, adornments, religious objects and musical instruments. It describes each artifact / common items of use along with its name (local dialect) in the Kondh communities. Giving an ethnographic account of the different sub-sects as well, the analysis systematically finds out what aspects of their culture has changed over the time and what has seen the least change.]

Indian Tribes and the Mainstream / Edited by Sukant K. Chaudhury

New Delhi : Rawat Publications,(Published on behalf of : Ethnographic and folk Culture Society, Lucknow), c2008

xii, 343 p. ; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

81-316-0103-X

\$ 18.50

[The volume posits a critique to the prevalent dichotomy between the mainstream of Indian society and the tribal cultures. Here, an attempt has been made to explore why this dichotomy came into existence and what have been its consequences in the socio-political reality of the nation. Drawing from both micro and macro studies the authors question the utility of traditional anthropological discourses on tribal societies. An endeavour to move beyond the straightjacketed approach helps in understanding the nuances and fluidities of cultural boundaries. It also enables us to see tribals as both victims and instruments in the social and political processes of nation-building.

Further, the volume examines the structure and processes of the tribal society vis-a-vis

their problems, policies, transformation, ethnic discourse and the future. It will be of interest to planners, researchers and students from both a theoretical perspective and empirical understanding.]

Indigenous Science and Technology for Sustainable Development / Edited By V. Subramanyam

Jaipur : Rawat Publications,(Published in association with Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata), 2008

x, 357 p. ; 22 cm.

81-316-0131-5

\$ 20.00

[Indigenous knowledge is the informal knowledge that exists in local societies, as against formal knowledge developed by the universities and research institutions of modern society. Indigenous knowledge of a human group covers a wide range of its member's perceptions of universal phenomena occurring in their immediate environment as well as the social, economic and cultural practices of the people. The roots for the modern technology are found in the indigenous scientific knowledge of different human groups.

In recent times many scientists including anthropologists have felt the need of preservation of indigenous knowledge and also its use for the sustainable development of tribal and rural folks. Indigenous knowledge is an important natural resource that can facilitate the development process in cost-effective participatory and sustainable ways.]

Changing Health Care Practices Among The Tribals / Tapan Kumar Gope

Ambala Cantt : The Associated Publishers, c2007

xiv, 307 p. ; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

81-8429-048-9

\$ 22.00

[The present book is an essential reference book on tribal health. The policy makers, policy advisors, donor agencies, nongovernmental development organisation working with the tribal communities and policy researchers will find the book useful. The book will also provide an interesting reading for the tribal development professionals, consultants, students of sociology, researchers and those interested in the area of tribal health.]

Human Cognition in Management of Natural Resources and Social Relations / Soma Bandyopadhyay

New Delhi : Sarup and Sons, c2007

xv, 183 p. ; 22 cm.

81-7625-794-X

\$ 12.00

[In this book human cognition regarding different natural resources is explored through application of different techniques of folk taxonomy and ethnoecology. Relationship of the Kol and the Santar inhabitants of selected villages in east Singbhum, Jharkhand with, their environment is deciphered. The depth of perception is here considered as the parameter of clear cognition and utility is found to be the foundation of this cognition but differential perception of two different community members raises the question, which stratum is stronger-utility or cognition through cultural prescription. This

fact is established in this book through application of specific statistical method. Logic and wisdom of the Kol and the Santar informants are given topmost priority. In every aspect of the study effort is given to search ethnic solution of different problems. These solutions come through prolonged experimentation and the folk accepts that solution which gives the optimum result. The process of experimentation through trial and error is highly scientific and thoroughly based on folk logic and wisdom. In this regard this study can undoubtedly be designated as a study on ethnosience.]
