

# A Tribute to Professor Paramananda Dash Sharma: The Founder Editor



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This paper is a tribute to the Founder Editor of “South Asian Anthropologist” by the current Editor (JS) and Managing Editors (NM and RL). Prof. Dash Sharma completed the March 2020 issue of “South Asian Anthropologist” as Editor-in-Chief before handing over the Editorship to the three authors of this manuscript. The three authors deeply acknowledge his acumen and tenacity in running the journal almost single-handedly over the last forty years. The first author (JS) first had the unique opportunity of meeting Prof. Paramananda Dash Sharma in a seminar organized by the Asiatic Society, Kolkata way back in 2008. JS still vividly recollects a diminutive person dressed in a suit coming towards him and introducing himself as Prof. P. Dash Sharma. Let us refer to this person as PDS in the subsequent part of this write-up.

## SOME PERSONAL TOUCHES

In that first historic meeting, PDS told JS that he was the founder editor of a journal called *South Asian Anthropologist* and requested JS to contribute manuscripts to the journal. Since then, JS and his research students have been regular contributors of manuscripts to *South Asian Anthropologist*. In that meeting JS was taken aback by the humble nature of PDS, his way of talking and giving respect to all. These were simply unbelievable. Till today he always addresses JS as Prof. Sen, in their telephonic exchanges and e-mails. Some days later, after that meeting in Asiatic Society, JS went to the Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta and narrated the whole incident to his Ph.D. supervisor, Prof. Asit Baran Das Chaudhuri (let us refer to him as ABDC in the subsequent parts of this manuscript). ABDC smiled and remarked that this was the greatness and nature of PDS. He went on to say that PDS always steered himself out of the world of “nutties” in Anthropology and was a person totally engrossed in

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his work, his institute and journal that he founded. ABDC further told JS that PDS was the student of Prof. Indera Paul Singh (subsequently referred to as IPS) of the Department of Anthropology, Delhi University. As far as we can recollect, among the few persons that ABDC admires, one is IPS and the other PDS. Later on, we also learnt that PDS was the second Ph.D. student of Prof. Singh.

Since 2008 JS has been closely associated with PDS and his family. Though he is a physical anthropologist, he has left his mark in many areas of anthropology, a complete anthropologist to us. Without his contributions to this discipline, any discussion on Anthropology in India would be incomplete. He has left a unique mark on the subject and his exploits needs to be documented for the benefit of our students. What is intensely striking is that even today, at the age of eighty he is continuing writing books and manuscripts. In fact, as we write this tribute, he has just completed writing a book on developmental anthropology and is in the process of revising his book *“Human Evolution: An Introduction to Physical Anthropology”*. He has also recently contributed a chapter in the forthcoming edited book of JS (with Dr. Jyoti Ratan Ghosh as Joint Editor) on tribal health and nutrition. To all three of us, this is PDS, a person totally engrossed in his work, unassuming and unpretentious. Another main aspect about PDS that is remarkable is that even today he remains very prompt in responding to messages and mails.

Before moving on, JS would like to share some more small anecdotes about PDS. He was a regular Visiting Faculty in the Department of Anthropology, University of North Bengal, till the COVID-19 epidemic derailed everything. Once JS remembers he was in Bengaluru when JS asked him whether it was possible for him to visit the Department as a Visiting Faculty. He graciously replied and agreed to come. As a Visiting faculty, he was entitled to railway travel by AC II Tier. JS checked up the railway reservation and found that no AC II Tier tickets were available in his designated dates. He immediately called up PDS, but PDS remarked that he had already booked his railway tickets. On further query, PDS replied that he would be travelling by AC III tier, as no AC II Tier tickets were available. This reminded JS of another stalwart

who used to visit the Department, Prof. Supriyo Ghosh Maullick (subsequently referred as SGM) of the Department of Anthropology, Utkal University. SGM after his retirement from Utkal University, settled in Shantiniketan. He used to visit the Department for official work. Whenever AC II Tier railways tickets were unavailable, he had travelled by Second Class Sitting to do the work. These anecdotes portray the commitments PDS and SGM had towards the subject and their work. In a lighter vein, JS also encountered instances when faculty members have refused to visit the University simply due to unavailability of AC II Tier railways tickets or preference for air travel, which was not permissible as per University rules. This brings JS to the aspect involving one of his research students, who is now attached to the Department of Anthropology, Central University of Sikkim and is also one of the current Managing Editors of *“South Asian Anthropologist”*. This student of mine, Nitish Mondal (NM), wanted to meet PDS who was in Ranchi while writing his Ph.D. thesis. PDS readily agreed and asked NM to come to Ranchi. NM reached Ranchi via Kolkata in the morning and PDS was there in the railway station to receive him. PDS straightaway took NM to his house, where Madam Dash Sharma had prepared a nice breakfast for him. NM spent the entire day there interacting with PDS along with a stupendous lunch. In the evening NM asked PDS to book a hotel for him. PDS replied *“No hotel, you stay at my place, in my son’s room who is now employed out of Ranchi and does not stay here”*. NM was taken aback but PDS remained polite yet very firm. So, NM stayed a couple of days with PDS in his house, completed his work and queries before returning to Siliguri. Such is the gentle nature of PDS – reminds us of the age old *“Guru Shishya parampara”*. We do not know whether such great teachers are there in our discipline today.

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OF PDS

PDS was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1940 in Varanashi, Uttar Pradesh. He is married to Chhanda Dash Sharma (*nee Sengupta*) since 1974. The couple has one daughter and one son, both of whom are well-established. He is now residing at 11, New Santoshpur Main Road, Kolkata 700075. His e-mail is

pdashsharma@rediffmail.com and mobile number is +91-8521427117. It was in Delhi where PDS completed his education, right from schooling till his Ph.D.

He completed his graduation in Zoology (Honours) in the year 1962 from the University of Delhi, (Ramjas College). This college was established in the year 1917 by the great educationist and philanthropist, Rai Kedar Nath. The college is one of the oldest colleges of Delhi, even older than the University of Delhi. The University of Delhi was founded five years later in the year 1922. PDS completed his M.Sc. in Anthropology from the University of Delhi in 1964. His distinguished teachers during his M.Sc. days were P. C. Biswas, I. P. Singh, S. C. Tewari, J. D. Mehra, A. Sharma, A. K. Mitra and P. K. Dutta. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree from the University of Delhi in the year 1970. His Ph.D. topic was "*Inheritance of Head Form in Man with Reference to Some of the Head Indices and Head Module*". His Ph.D. supervisor was none other but the great IPS. He was the second student to be awarded the Ph.D. degree under IPS, the first being another stalwart in Physical Anthropology, Prof. I. J. S. Bansal who later on joined Punjabi University, Patiala. PDS started his work career as a Junior Investigator at Office of the Registrar General, Government of India, New Delhi (1965-1970). He then joined the Anthropological Survey of India as a Research Associate in Mysore (1970-1972). Subsequently, he joined the Department of Anthropology, Ranchi University in the year July 1972 and continued to serve there till his retirement as Professor in Anthropology in the year 1999. His areas of interest are Physical anthropology, Human genetics, Health and nutrition, Bio-cultural studies, Environmental studies and Development programmes in rural areas of Jharkhand. He has successfully supervised the Ph.D. thesis of twelve research students from the Department of Anthropology, University of Ranchi.

Let us bring in here one of the founding fathers of British anthropology, the great Bronislaw Malinowski. His great work "*Argonauts of the Western Pacific: An Account of Native Enterprise and Adventure in the Archipelagoes of Melanesian New Guinea*" first published in the year 1922. This book forms the basis of fieldwork studies in the discipline.

Unlike the 'armchair anthropologists' before him, Malinowski advocated, instead of studying other peoples from the comfort of university libraries, going 'into the field', that is, living with the people he was studying, engaging in their community, learning their language, eating their food, and taking part in their everyday life. Since Malinowski's time, fieldwork – traditionally, away from one's own society – has been regarded as an essential and necessary part of an anthropologist's professional training. PDS was no exception and he remained deeply rooted to the essence of fieldwork. He is of the notion that fieldwork forms the basis of anthropological research. He carried out extensive fieldwork in north-east India among the Kabui Naga, Zemi Naga, Dimasa Kachari and Mikir tribes when he was working at the Registrar Generals's office at New Delhi and among the tribes of Chotanagpur when he was at Ranchi, thus, spanning almost four decades (1965-2004).

PDS was very closely associated with (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) and International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (ICAES) programmes which were organized by another stalwart of Indian Anthropology, Prof. L. P. Vidyarthi (subsequently referred to as LPV). LPV was the X<sup>th</sup> President of IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Studies) from 1974 to 1978. PDS remained associated as Local Secretary assisting LPV and with IUAES from 1974 to 1983, up to the Vancouver Congress (Canada) in 1983. He was instrumental in organizing an International Symposium on "*The Anthropology of Chotanagpur Plateau*" in Vancouver on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1983, on the occasion of the 11th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. He confided to JS that it was this association with LPV during the IUAES days that he perfected the art of writing and replying to letters to renowned foreign scholars and that gave him an opportunity to meet them later.

#### SARAT CHANDRAROY INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES (SRIANS)

PDS founded this institute on the 'Sarhul Day', March 30, 1979 at Ranchi with his personal fund and initiative and with help from Prof. Sarah B. Holt of

Galton Laboratory, University College, London who donated £ 100/- to him. Dr. Holt is considered to be an authority in the field of dermatoglyphics, with publications in journals such as *Annals of Human Genetics*, *British Medical Bulletin*, *Clinical Paediatrics and Acta Genetica et Statistica Medica*. After the initial planning programmes for the establishment of the institute by PDS and Dr. Aresh K. Haldar, the institute was formally founded.

The institute address at that time was the house of Sarat Chandra Roy (subsequently referred to as SCR) in Ranchi, with the kind permission of Mira Roy, the daughter of SCR. In 1988 the institute office was shifted to the residence of PDS at Harmu, Ranchi, which also became the editorial office of the journal, *South Asian Anthropologist*. He was the Research Director of this esteemed institute. The institute has been recognized as a research institute of Asian Studies by Indian Council of Social Science, New Delhi. Since 1980 the Institute regularly published the a biannual journal "*South Asian Anthropologist*" under his editorship. SRIANS was registered with the Government of West Bengal under the Societies Registration Act of 1961 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 1982, with its headquarters at Calcutta and research office at Ranchi. It is a non-profit, non-governmental research institute to promote anthropological researches in South Asia. The aims and objectives of SRIANS were to promote anthropological studies and researches, independently or in collaboration with other scholars, associations, institutions and organizations, to sponsor anthropological research projects, seminars, symposia and conferences, independently or in collaboration with other societies of India or foreign countries, to publish journals and books on anthropology for the benefit of the scholars of South Asian countries and to create endowment funds for research fellowships in anthropology in the name of Sarat Chandra Roy. A number of Seminars, Conferences and Symposia were organized by SRIANS. The Institute had also initiated some village development programmes, realizing that development programmes must be initiated from below, and the people must identify their felt needs, and that they must have a role in executing the schemes meant for their benefit and in fashioning their life in the way they like it. With this in mind the Institute adopted a

tribal dominated village, Dungra, of Kalamati Panchayat of Khunti block, Ranchi district, for non-formal educational programmes from January 1997.

#### A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF RAI BAHADUR SARAT CHANDRA ROY

Renowned anthropologists like D. N. Majumdar, G. S. Ghurye, S. C. Dube, N. K. Bose, L. P. Vidyarthi and Surjeet Sinha have continuously reviewed the growth of anthropology in the country. The setting up of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1774 by Sir William Jones is considered by many to be a landmark in the history of anthropology in India. Under this organization, a number of anthropological studies were conducted and many were published in the journal of the Society. LPV believed that the constructive period of anthropology in the country started around 1920 with the opening of the Department of Anthropology in the University of Calcutta with R. Chandra as Head of the Department and founding of the journal *Man In India*, the first Indian journal in Anthropology by SCR in 1921.

A great name synonymous with Indian Anthropology is none other than the lawyer, Sarat Chandra Roy (SCR). He was born on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1871 Manikpur (Khulna district in Bangladesh) and left for his heavenly abode on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1942 (it was the holy day of Buddha Purmina that year) in Ranchi. He is often referred to as the "Father of Indian Anthropology" and mainly remembered for his studies on the tribals of Chotanagpur, especially among the Mundas and Oraons. In 1921 SCR presented a bibliography of the publications of tribal and caste studies in India. He classified the growth of anthropology in India in terms of the sources of publications such as magazines, handbooks and monographs etc. and also in terms of the nationality of the authors. The scientific presentation of data on the tribal life of the Mundas soon established him as an authority on the Mundas and this was considered to be a landmark in his career. He published several monographs on the tribes of the Chotanagpur plateau. His work on the Oraons, a primitive tribe of the Dravidian linguistic family, revealed the similarity with primitive cultural life, while also bringing out the minute differences that existed between the Oraons and the Mundas. He published many monographs embodying

the results of his studies, notably Oraons (1916), Birhors (1925), Oraon Religion and Customs (1928) and Hill Bhuiyas of Orissa (1935). SCR also advocated what he called the “Nationalist tradition of Indian Anthropology”. This was strongly reflected in one of his papers titled “An Indian Outlook on Anthropology’ in *Man*, the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*. In this paper, SCR critically evaluated the major theories developed in the then western anthropology. The theories included evolutionism, diffusionism and functionalism. A novel attempt was also made by him to synthesise the ideas of ancient Indian philosophers with western anthropological concepts. According to SCR, the essence of Indian thought lay in the subjective process of ‘sympathetic immersion’ with other cultures and societies and this could be combined with the objective approach of western anthropology. SCR also left his mark in the field of prehistoric archaeology. Over a hundred ‘Asura’ sites were described by him. They were described as Asur sites due to local mythology, Asur garhs or forts and Asur sasans or burial grounds. For his contributions, SCR was conferred the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal in the year 1913 and was bestowed the title of Rai Bahadur in 1919. He was the President, Anthropology Section, Indian Science Congress in 1920 and also Honorary Member of the Folklore Society of London.

The Birth Centenary of SCR fell on November 4, 1971. In order to commemorate his contributions, the Indian Anthropological Association, in collaboration with the University of Ranchi and Council of Social and Cultural Research, Bihar celebrated the day by holding an international seminar on “One Hundred Years of Anthropology in India,” release of a book on the contributions of SCR to Indian anthropology and the inaugural issue of the *Journal of the Indian Anthropological Association*, holding of the sixth annual conference of the Indian Anthropological Association and establishment of the S. C. Roy Gold Medal for the best publication on the tribes of Bihar.

SCR’s house in Ranchi was located in 18 Church Road, close to the Lower Bazar police station, at the corner of Fateullah Lane. It was some sort of a pilgrimage for anthropologists to regularly visit his house for academic purposes. The more than 100-

year-old house in Ranchi was built by SCR in 1907. The bungalow, with eight rooms, not only housed his collection of over four thousand books but it was also a museum of objects, tools, weapons, household goods and whatever else he could pick up during his visit to tribal villages. Huge stones excavated by him around Khunti were also on display in his house, including a historic ‘Shivalinga’. After his demise, his youngest daughter, Mira, looked after the collection till she herself died some years back. Ironically, SCR has been largely forgotten today, although Prof. Abhijit Guha of Vidyasagar University has been trying to enlighten the present generation of anthropologists about his life and works. Here the very recent papers of Guha are mentionable (Guha, 2016; 2018; 2019; 2020a, 2020b). None of the Departments of Anthropology in our country have a Chair in his name and no attempt has been made to preserve his heritage and the house. The vision and genius of SCR were his alone. However, there has been some activities to commemorate SCR for his great contributions to Indian Anthropology during the constructive period (1920-1949). A book *Essays in Anthropology—presented to Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Roy* was published in 1942, which was edited by J. P. Mills, B. S. Guha, K. P. Chattopadhyay, D. N. Majumdar and A. Aiyappan. A fellowship programme and a gold medal were introduced by the Asiatic Society, Kolkata in the memory of SCR. The names of some of the recipients of the gold medal are Verrier Elwin (1944), J. P. Mills (1945), W. V. Grigson (1946), U. R. Ehrenfels (1949), Tarak Chandra Das (1952), G. S. Ghurye (1955), M. N. Srinivas (1958), F. G. Bailey (1961), Christopher Von Furer Haimendorf (1964), Nirmal Kumar Bose (1967), A. Ayappan (1970), Louis Dumont (1973), S. C. Dube (1976), Ramkrishna Mukherjee (1979) and M. S. A. Rao (1982). On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1990 the second SCR memorial lecture was organized by *Man in India* in collaboration with Indian Museum and was held in Asutosh Birth Centary Hall, Calcutta. None after him was ever able to put together a plausible worldview of the various tribal communities of erstwhile undivided Bihar.

The primary reason we have talked about SCR is only to establish the strong influence SCR and his studies had on PDS. The influences were so strong that PDS almost singlehandedly founded the Sarat

Chandra Roy Institute of Anthropological Studies (SRIANS) in March 1979, at Ranchi. PDS picked up the thread where SCR left in 1912 and three years ago published a volume entitled “*Mundas and Their Country: A Century After*” in 2018.

#### THE JOURNAL “SOUTH ASIAN ANTHROPOLOGIST”

This journal is the official organ of SRIANS. The institute received *Grants-in-Aid* from Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, from the year 2002 to 2010, for the publication of the journal [*Grants-in-Aid*: F. No. 14-38/29/96 TSP, and F.No. 14-38/96/2006-07/ RSP] for 8 consecutive years. Starting from 1980, PDS was the Editor of this esteemed journal. He single-handedly led from the front, the journal what we see today is only because of the untiring efforts of this great personality. He subsequently retired from the editorship of the journal in the year 2020 after completing the age of 80. It is a great pleasure to write here that PDS has handed over the Editorship of this famed journal to us from 2020 onwards. It is indeed a great encouragement for us and also a tough job to take the journal forward. PDS taught us the basics of editorship. He told us that the job of the editor is not just to pass a received manuscript to the reviewers, pass the comments of the reviewers back to the authors and then once the reviewers agree that the manuscript can be accepted, pass on the acceptance to the authors and send the manuscript to the publishers for proofs, and lastly pass on the proofs to the authors for corrections. The Editors have to read the manuscript critically to make language editing, make notes on the contents that are missing, especially the references and ask for revisions if required. Then comes the external review. PDS was so methodical that he used to correct the proofs himself (3 follow up sets of proofs are sent by the publisher to the editor). He used to continuously contact authors when he noticed mistakes while revising at the proof stage. We are fortunate enough to have learnt these finer aspects of editorship from him.

From 1980 to 1982, for and on behalf of the Institute, the journal was being printed and published by Maitryee Publications, a local publisher of Ranchi. From 1983 onwards the Institute took up the printing and the publication of the journal. Six special issues

of the journal have since been published on themes like ‘Social Change in South Asia, ‘Human Dimension in South Asian Field Research’ and ‘Ecology is for the People’. The journal has been covered in DARE data bank of UNESCO and International Bibliography of Social Sciences, London. The journal is also being indexed in the Anthropological Index Online (AIO), an effort of the Royal Anthropological Society, England in cooperation with the Anthropological Library and Research Centre. The William Buller Fagg Charitable Trust has generously funded the AIO. From 1980 up to the year 2000 (21 volumes) SRIANS published 21 volumes of the journal (Old Series). From 2001 (New Series) onwards, the printing, publication and distribution rights were given to Serials Publications, New Delhi.

#### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF PDS

PDS has published an immense number of papers in reputed journals such as *Current Anthropology*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *Anthropos*, *Genetika*, *Humangenetik*, *Acta Medica Auxologica*, *L’ Anthropologie*, *Annals of Human genetics*, *Annals of Human Biology*, *Indian Journal of Physical Anthropology and Human Genetics*, *Eastern Anthropologist*, *Man In India*, *Indian Journal of Paediatrics* and *Journal of the Indian Anthropological Society*. It is not possible to discuss all his publications here. But one aspect of PDS is admirable. He never refuses to contribute manuscripts to journals, edited books and the like. His encouragement here is simply great. Even at his advancing age, he has contributed a manuscript on culture in our Departmental journal (Dash Sharma, 2020). Some of his significant publications are discussed below.

Some pioneering studies in dermatoglyphics were published by PDS. The first publication of PDS was on dermatoglyphics among male individuals from Ladakh (Dash Sharma, ’66a). He followed it up on publications on ridge count in the same year (Mitra *et al.*, ’66; Dash Sharma, ’66b). Then was a publication in *Acta. Crim. Japan* on the intertriradial ridge counts among the Ladakhis (’68a). Three years later, PDS published a significant paper in *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* (Chattopadhyay and Dash Sharma, ’69) where the finger patterns of sub caste

Rarhi Brahmin have been analyzed. In the year 1973, Chattopadhyay and Dash Sharma ('73) analysed the palmer patterns of this population. In the same year there was a significant publication on the dermatoglyphic patterns of the Oraons (Dash Sharma and Sahu, '73). In the year 1977, PDS published an epic paper with none other than Dr. Sarah. B. Holt on absence of digital triradius  $d$ , which was a very rare, is a very rare phenomenon among humans (Holt and Dash Sharma, '77) and later followed it up with another epic publication in *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* (Dash Sharma, '79). Then PDS published a manuscript on the sole dermatoglyphics of the Oraon and Munda (Dash Sharma, '77). Let us bring in the view of ABDC here. ABDC always says that a publication in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* remains the ultimate reward an author can expect for conducting research in Physical Anthropology.

But this does not mean that PDS restricted himself into dermatoglyphics. He also studied transverse fronto-parietal index (Dash Sharma, '68b) and developed the transverse cephalic curvature index (Dash Sharma, '68c). He also carried out extensive studies on head shape and size (Dash Sharma, '70a, '70b; Susanne and Dash Sharma, '78). He then ventured into studies of population variation (Dash Sharma, '71). He also studied the genetic variations among the Car Nicobarese (Gupta and Dash Sharma, '73), the Munda (Mukherjee *et al.*, '73) and Oraon (Mukerjee *et al.*, '75). He also had a comment published on a paper that dealt with cluster analysis of ABO blood group in India in the famous journal *Current Anthropology* (Dash Sharma, '82). He then moved on to research on development and health (Sircar and Dash Sharma, '85; Sarkar *et al.*, '91; Dash Sharma, '97, 2015; Basu and Dash Sharma, 2002).

PDS has also published manuscripts in a number of edited books. The interests of PDS in dermatoglyphics and fieldwork in Anthropology continued to be reflected in manuscripts contributed by him in a number of edited books (e.g., Dash Sharma, '70, '84, '86, '94). PDS also contributed articles in edited books that dealt with tribal studies, health and development also (Dash Sharma, '97; '99 a, b. 2000, 2014, 2019).

He also successfully completed a number of UGC-funded projects. These include projects on the Birjias of Netarhat Plateau, Birhors of Chota Nagpur Plateau and the Parhaiyas of Palamau.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is indeed very difficult to provide a complete sketch on the life and works of such distinguished scholars such as PDS. We have tried to present some glimpses of PDS, but of course, these are not all. We always say that we need to count our gains, not losses. To us the greatest gain is the significant impact of PDS on our careers as anthropologists. We are strongly of the opinion that that this manuscript shall trigger the minds of our young generation of anthropologists.

#### MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG GENERATION AND STUDENTS OF ANTHROPOLOGY

As we have just written above, we need to take our gains forward, not our losses. India has contributed immensely to the development and spread of anthropology, both in the theoretical and the empirical domains. The list of luminaries is endless and here we can cite S. C. Roy, L. K. Mahapatra, S. C. Dube, L. P. Vidyarthi, P. Mitra, I. Karve, M. N. Srinivas, V. Elwin, D. N. Majumdar, G. S. Ghurye, V. K. Srivastava, A. K. Ghosh, A. Aiyappan, D. Sen, D. K. Bhattacharya, B. S. Guha, S. S. Sarkar, L. N. Sanghvi, P. C. Biswas and I. P. Singh amongst others. They are no more, but their works remain. Among our teachers and their contemporaries who are still alive and renowned for their research, we may include A. B. Das Chaudhuri, M. K. Bhasin, P. C. Joshi, A. Bagga and of course PDS. But ironically, very few of our contemporaries have made serious attempts to document the works of these legends. Here the recent efforts of Abhijit Guha on SCR, T. C. Das, P. K. Ganguly and Panchanan Mitra, and the classic film on B. S. Guha by Naba Kumar Duary are mentionable. A volume of 218 pages, titled "*Anthropologists in India*" was compiled by Dr. Sachin Roy which was published by the Indian Anthropological Association, New Delhi in the year 1970. There is also a directory of Anthropologists that has been published in the year 1978 by D. K. Bhattacharya on behalf of the Indian Anthropological Association, New Delhi (Bhattacharya, '78). A

directory of Anthropologists of the country was also published by Rakshit *et al.* ('81) under auspices of the Anthropological Survey of India. Recently, Amitabha Sarkar and Samira Dasgupta have published an edited book (in three volumes) titled "Doyens of Indian Anthropology".

We consistently tell our students that we would be the happiest persons in our lives when we shall learn that one of our students have surpassed us in our works. One more aspect we need to highlight here. All of us shall leave for our date with the Almighty one day, but our publications shall survive. A true academician is known by his/her publications, not by the number of invited talks he/she had delivered, or for that matter how many selection committees he/she attended or how many administrative bodies he/she were members in. This is where PDS comes in. His publications and efforts to recognize the activities of SCR remain very commendable and should serve as sources of information to all of us.

It is our sincere hope and belief that our young generation of anthropologists will take a leaf out of the works of PDS and this article and venture into uncharted waters. We need to step into the shoes of the legends of anthropology of our country to take the discipline of Anthropology truly forward. If we cannot do so, we are afraid that anthropology will die a slow death in our country.

In an ending note, we may add the remark of Prof. Barry Bogin, Professor Emeritus of Biological Anthropology, Loughborough University and author of the book "Patterns of Human growth". When he visited the Department of Anthropology, University of North Bengal two years back, he confided to JS that anthropology should open its doors not to be only "inter-disciplinary" but to be "trans-disciplinary" in nature.

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