



Indira Gandhi
National Open University
School of Humanities

THE PEOPLE'S
UNIVERSITY

MFC-004
Tribes of India:
Identity, Culture
and Lore

COURSE

4

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BLOCK 2

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BLOCK 3

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University, Orissa

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& LS, Delhi University, New Delhi.

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College, Delhi University
New Delhi.

Dr. Chandan K. Sharma
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Department of Sociology
Tezpur University, Assam

IGNOU Faculty

Prof. C.R.K Murthy
STRIDE, IGNOU (Distance
Education Expert)

**Dr. Nandini Sahu, SOH
IGNOU, (Programme
Coordinator)**

COURSE COORDINATION

Dr. Nandini Sahu (Programme Coordinator)

Reader, Faculty of English, SOH

COURSE PREPARATION

Block 1

Unit 1: Dr. Nandini Sahu/Ms. Julie Baruah

Unit 2: Dr. Nandini Sahu/Ms. Julie Baruah

Unit 3 : Dr. Utpola Borah

Unit 4 : Mr. Hans F. Utter

Block 2

Unit 1 : Dr. Nandini Sahu/Ms. Julie Baruah

Unit 2 : Dr. Nandini Sahu/Ms. Julie Baruah

Unit 3 : Dr. Nandini Sahu/Ms. Julie Baruah

Unit 4 : Dr. Vedpal Rana

Block 3

Unit 1: Dr. Nandini Sahu & Dr. Utpola Borah

Unit 2: Ms. Julie Baruah

Unit 3: Mr. Hans F. Utter

Unit 4: Dr. Manjeet Baruah

Block 4

Unit 1: Ms. Gouri Nilakanthan Mehta

Unit 2: Dr. Utpola Borah

Unit 3: Dr. Utpola Borah

Unit 4: Dr. Utpola Borah

COURSE EDITING

Dr. Nandini Sahu, Programme Coordinator

Dr. Utpola Borah

Mr. Hans F. Utter

Ms. Gouri Nilakanthan Mehta

Dr. Malati Mathur

Ms. Nasreen Vinod

Ms. Sangitika Nigam

Ms. Sudha Jagannath

Mr. Niroj Kumar Sethi, RTA, SOH

PRODUCTION TEAM

Mr. B. Natrajan
Deputy Registrar (Publication)
MPDD, IGNOU, New Delhi

Mr. S. Berman
Asst. Registrar (Publication)
MPDD, IGNOU, New Delhi

Mr. B.L. Rewadia
Section Officer (Publication)
MPDD, IGNOU, New Delhi

SECRETARIAL SUPPORT:

Mr. Daya Sagar, SOH, IGNOU

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COURSE 4 TRIBES OF INDIA: IDENTITY, CULTURE AND LORE

Introduction

Course Four, *Tribes of India: Identity, Culture and Lore*, aims to provide you with an understanding of the different kinds of tribes that live in India, their nature of distribution across the landscape of India and their various strategies of economic, political and cultural survival. The course would introduce you to the overall theories and problems associated with tribes of India, the linguistic, social and economic characteristics that differentiate one from the other, the strategies of survival under various conditions and the factors that transform these characteristics into that of political identity for any given tribe. Besides elaborate discussions on the tribes and their various types, there will also be discussion on relation of tribes to forests and seasons as modes of living. There will also be units that touch upon the different kinds and meanings of etiological tales, i.e. origin of myths, that tribes have to explain about their origin and society.



BLOCK 1



TRIBES OF INDIA



BLOCK 1 TRIBES OF INDIA

Introduction

In this Block, you will be introduced to the concept of tribe and their geographical distribution in India. Three kinds of tribes, namely migrant, hunting-gathering and cultivating, would be taken up for special focus in this regard. There will also be discussions on their subsistence pattern and economy to highlight their socio-economic characteristics. Unit two will take up the nature and causes of distribution of tribes into groups and sub-groups based on language, race, social structure and economic organization. The environmental and cultural factors that are central to their existence would be discussed. Unit three would focus on strategies of survival that different tribes adopt or follow under different conditions. The various cultural, socio-economic and political strategies of survival would be explored in this context. Unit four would take up how tribes distinguish oneself from other based on cultural or political factors. The role of symbols, territory and political processes would be highlighted to explain how tribes distinguish oneself from other.