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# NEWSLETTER

**CENTRE FOR REGULATORY STUDIES,  
GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY**

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2. Data Collection at Bankura and Purulia District for Govt. Welfare Scheme and Traditional Knowledge
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## Adivasi and Lok Sanskriti Utsav



By Rima Ghosh  
Research Assistant

Adivasi Lok Sanskriti Utsav was organized by CRSGPP in collaboration with Gandharva Kala Sangam. The program was initiated with a rally organized from Raniganj Railway station to Raj High School Football ground and Nazrul Manch, Shishu Bagan, Raniganj. The rally consisted of enthusiastic participants from various schools and colleges of Raniganj. The rally gave an opportunity to the members of the Adivasi community to demonstrate their cultural and ethnic potentialities through dance and other forms of art and expression. Delving intricately into the forms of art, there were representations of the Chhau dance, Ronpa dance, Adivasi dance, Baul folk music, Horse dance, Kokiri Song, which were performed by various local institutions. In the rally, students representing from about fifteen schools participated in showcasing their respective performances. The rally culminated at Raj High School Football ground and Nazrul Manch, Raniganj where the tribal groups gathered and started performing their respective traditional performances.

The inaugural ceremony was initiated with the demonstration of a traditional song and watering of the plant (An initiative by CRSGPP towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals). The inauguration was graced by the Dr. Jayanta Ghosh (Research Fellow, CRSGPP), Dr. Pinaki Ghosh (MHRD IP Chair, WBNUJS) and the team of CRSGPP along-with the members and the President of the Gandharva Kala Sangam. The participants and the local community people engaged in exploring the food counters and handicraft counters which was prototypical of the Adivasi and Tribal knowledge, culture and expression. The food counters were indicatively decorated highlighting respective states that were West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab and Bihar. The programme took its final vigor with the performances of the tribal peoples by their traditional expression. The performance of Ronpa dance were performed by the different tribal people followed by dance performance by the

students of Nitriyangan (A Non-Governmental Organization). While dance performances were being performed by the tribal people, the members of CRSGPP, WBNUJS conducted field survey on the tribal people regarding their social welfare schemes. In the evening the folk cultural groups performed their traditional songs and dance. The folk groups came from Birbhum, Purulia, Asansol, Raniganj, Bankura and Bardhaman districts of West Bengal. The program witnessed full participation from the tribal people and local residents as they appreciated and acknowledged the traditional expression of art through the performances.

The second day of the three-day event included the Seminar on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. The seminar commenced with the chanting of the sacred Veda, by the local artists of Raniganj. There were distinguished dignitaries from Viswa- Bharati, Santiniketan, Prof. (Dr.) Sruti Bandopadhyay, Dr. Shambhu Prasad Chakrabarty (Head and Research Fellow of CRSGPP, WBNUJS), Dr. Jayanta Ghosh (Research Fellow of CRSGPP, WBNUJS), Dr. Santanu Panda (Research Associate, CRSGPP, WBNUJS) Dr. Pinaki Ghosh (MHRD IP Chair, WBNUJS) Dr. Swati Sinha (Head, Department of Law, Kazi Nazrul University), Mr. Kanaiya Singh and other respected members of the Gandharva Kala Sangam. The dignitaries inaugurated the seminar by watering the plants to mark respect towards Mother Nature. The dignitaries were felicitated on the dais along with other members of the NGOs present in the seminar by Rima Ghosh (Research Assistant of CRSGPP, WBNUJS). The Head and Research Fellow of CRSGPP, WBNUJS, Dr. Chakrabarty delivered the welcome address on the relevance of protection of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions which is the asset of our culturally enriched country. He pointed out the potential of traditional knowledge which is deep rooted within the local tribal community and also discussed about the present international and national scenario. He highlighted that traditional knowledge is getting lost and there is an urgent need to protect and document it to prevent it from extinction. The Managing Trustee of the NGO 'Gandharv Kala Sangam' Ms. Saswati Chatterjee delivered the second address following which the first technical session

## OUTREACH PROGRAMME



The session started by Ms. Saswati Chatterjee Secretary, Gandharba Kalasangha, voicing her opinion regarding the need to improve the economic status of the rural woman. The key speaker Swati Dutta, Secretary 'Sucehetana' – a woman organisation of Jhargram pointed out the need to 'raise the voice' for women. Her speech was on human trafficking of girls and women and she focused on sharing personal anecdotes of how she has rescued such victims and rehabilitated them and the basic needs for their survival so that they can be rehabilitated back to the society. How a rural woman setup her life through self-employment with the help of Self-Help Groups was also a focus of her discussion. She also discussed the girl child advocacy programme, adolescent health and issues relating to domestic violence. The next speaker was Dr. Amrita Ghosh, a gynecologist who spoke about female feticide and highlighted on the importance of woman's self-development. The next speaker, Ms. Susmita Chatterjee, a local TV Channel coordinator and dramatist delivered a talk on how a woman can be empowered through self-initiatives like handicraft preparation and /or daily labour activities. She also suggests a proposal to setup a training center to protect the traditional activities. The last speaker of the workshop was Dr Santanu Panda who discussed the strategies of women's self empowerment by citing various examples like paper plate making and paper sweet box which was made by the women of tribal area. He is also highlighted the deplorable and poor conditions of woman who are marginalized as the weaker section in the society. The role of women is more important and their role is more sincere in both the domestic and public sphere. Therefore, they have a vital significance in improving the familial and societal conditions. The three-day Adivasi Lok Sanskriti Utsav concluded with various folk dances by the Tribal Groups and the singing of the National Anthem.

was conducted on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. The resource persons Ms. Archita Chatterjee and Shreashi Bhattacharya, Ph. D Scholars of IIT Kharagpur presented their paper on 'Art and Anthropocene in Bengal folk and Chhau mask preparation as traditional occupation and knowledge'. Dr. Pinaki Ghosh discussed about how research is being conducted and how to collect the data and the various steps of research. Following the presentation, there was 'Ronpa' performance and a tribal cultural performance on 'Sitala puja' by tribal women. An amazing performance of Rabindra Nritya by the students of Shantiniketan, mesmerized the audience. After this there were second technical session on Traditional Knowledge and handicrafts which was discussed by Dr. Shambhu Prasad Chakrabarty who discussed about the traditional medicine and traditional expression in rural area. Then he initiated the plenary discussion with all the speakers. Dr Shruti Bandopadhyay discussed about the traditional performance as a traditional art form and how to preserve it and secure it.

Dr. Jayanta Ghosh highlighted upon the protection of intellectual property while Dr. Swati Sinha also focused on the traditional medicines used by the tribal peoples and the scientists. Dr. Santanu Panda presented a paper on forest, people and the traditional relationship amongst the 'Birhor' of Purulia. He elucidated on how the tribal community use meditational plants as a mode of livelihood and how their traditional occupation is related to the forest. He also focused on the Santhals of Bankura who use 27 roots, leaf, creeper in the month of Magh to protect themselves from various diseases and epidemics. There was also an interactive session with the members of the tribal community who showcased their handicrafts products. Two local tribal person displayed their handicrafts products and also explained their medicinal values. The third day starts with a patriotic song by the Sangeetayan, Schools of Music (An Unit under Gandharv Kala Sangam). Ms. Saswasti Chatterjee delivered the welcome speech. The members of CRSGPP, WBNUJS, Dr Jayanta Ghosh and Dr. Santanu Panda delivered a speech in the workshop on Women Empowerment.

## PROJECTS

# Data Collection for project Social Welfare Schemes and Traditional Knowledge Projects among PVTGs in District of Bankura



By Vijoy Kumar Sinha  
Research Assistant

The members of CRSGPP teamed up with few local residents of the concerned district to initiate the field survey (data collection) for projects on Impact Assessment of Government Social Welfare Schemes and Traditional Knowledge in different villages of the Bankura district. The research concentrated on the Sabar community who were residing there for many centuries. While collecting data it has been found out that the many villagers were struggling to live a healthy life. It was noted that almost none of the houses have toilet facilities nor any scope of electric supply. While collecting data it was also observed that the majority of the villagers are migrant labourers, and they visit nearby Burdwan district to work along with their family members. The kids belonging to the Sabar families go to school in Burdwan along accompanied by their parents.

During the field investigation, the daily life of the people belonging to the Sabar community was also established. The adult male members of the family generally leave for work very early in the morning whereas, their wife and kids take care of household activities. They usually come back from work later in the afternoon, thereafter they get engaged in domestic chores such as cleaning, washing, etc. Regarding occupation, some are engaged in agricultural work whereas some cultivate the land owned by others in exchange for a sum of hundred to hundred a fifty per day.

A local school supported by ICDS (Khichudi School, as they call it,) was located in the village where the parents enrolled their children for formal education and also for 'nutrition' (khichuri is provided). The ICDS scheme was popular, however, it could be further improved with the aid training of the members and officials. Most of the adult members are not formally educated and could sign only their names. Early marriages among the female population was also detected while conducting the field survey, making gender disparities across the district highly evident.



The houses were of various forms and structures, such as kutcha house and mud house which was constructed by the Government under various schemes such as Geetanjali, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, Indira Awas Yojna.

Many houses had received electricity but due to non payment of electricity bill their connections have been disconnected.

Most of the houses have received bathroom but they are using as storage rooms.



## PROJECTS

# Data Collection for project Social Welfare Schemes and Traditional Knowledge among PVTGs in District of Purulia



By Vijoy Kumar Sinha  
Research Assistant

The members of CRSGPP teamed up with few local residents of the concerned district to initiate the field survey (data collection) for projects on Impact Assessment of Government Social Welfare Schemes and Traditional Knowledge in different villages of the Purulia district. In order to narrow down the research arena, the field survey was specifically concentrated on the Birhor community.

During the course of our field investigation, most of the villagers own land. The average per capita land is approximately three bighas. Paddy is the main crop that they cultivate over there. The majority of the population works as migrant non-agricultural labour and gets paid approximately two hundred to two hundred and fifty rupees per day. This gives an insight into the economic conditions of the Birhor community.

Some of the community members also work as a mason in other states like Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh or various parts of West Bengal as well. Some of them are employed in honey extraction factories at Murshidabad. They usually earn for six months and then they return home and engage in other rudimentary jobs which include forest produce collection which they later sell in the market for economic gain. Some of them are also engaged in some other activities like rope making. Few of them also practice hunting as well. Animal husbandry is also identified to be a major practice in the village.

Regarding formal education, the conditions of the Birhors is better when compared to the Lodha community. There is a local school supported by ICDS scheme in the village where the parents enrol their children for formal education and mainly for 'supplement nutrition'. A high school in the village was also located. During our investigation we found that two girls from the Birhor community passed the Madhyamik Examination in the year 2018, for the first time. Besides this, the literacy level among the Birhor was traced to vary between classes four to eight. However, a few of them have passed the Madhyamik Examination and only one Graduate among them who works as a guest teacher at a school.



The houses were of various forms and structures, such as kutcha house and mud house which was constructed by the Government under various schemes such as Geetanjali, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, Indira Awas Yojna.

Many of the community members also received job cards through which at least one member from each family was supposed to get an unskilled job for at least one hundred days. But the majority of them have not received any employment opportunities so far from the government. It was observed that only eight to ten among the community members have received jobs.

It is also observed that the villages have few SHGs where they have to pay minimal amount to keep the group functional. The primary role of the SHGs is that they help the community members by giving economic support and domestic animals for the purpose of economic activities. In matters of health, although the majority of the households has received health cards, they are unaware of its utility. This portrays the socio-economic perspective of the Birhor community.



# Webinar on 'COVID-19 Lockdown and Environment Around Us'

By Sanghamitra Baladhikari  
Research Assistant

A webinar titled 'COVID-19 Lockdown and Environment Around Us' was organised by Centre for Regulatory Studies, Governance and Public Policy, The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata in collaboration with Calma Expeditions, USA on 7th of May, 2020. One of the significant discussions in the webinar was the need to recognise the significance of the environment around us in the crisis of the COVID-19 Lockdown. Important issues pertaining to the conservation of the environment as a step ahead towards meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were also discussed. With the shutting down of the major sectors across the world, the lockdown has brought a direct impact on the environment and human beings have resorted to the traditional mechanisms of existence associated with the environment around us. The important speakers who addressed these issues in the webinar were Professor Abhijit Mitra, Faculty Member, Department of Marine Science, University of Calcutta; Dr. Sufia Zaman, HOD and Associate Professor, Department of Oceanography, Techno India University, West Bengal; Dr. S.P. Chakrabarty, Head and Research Fellow, Centre for Regulatory Studies, Governance and Public Policy, WBNUJS and Ms. Ankita Mitra, Researcher, Department of Evolutionary Biology, University of Hafia, Israel. The webinar significantly contributed to various discourses associating environment preservation as a tool against COVID-19.

Webinar  
on  
**COVID-19 LOCKDOWN  
AND ENVIRONMENT  
AROUND US**

*Organised by CALMA EXPEDITIONS, USA In collaboration  
with CRSGPP, WBNUJS, INDIA*

**Prof. Abhijit Mitra**  
Faculty Member  
Department of Marine Science  
University of Calcutta

**Dr. Sufia Zaman**  
HOD & Associate Professor  
Department of Oceanography  
Techno India University, West Bengal

**Dr. S.P. Chakrabarty**  
Head and Research Fellow  
Centre for Regulatory Studies,  
Governance and Public Policy  
WBNUJS

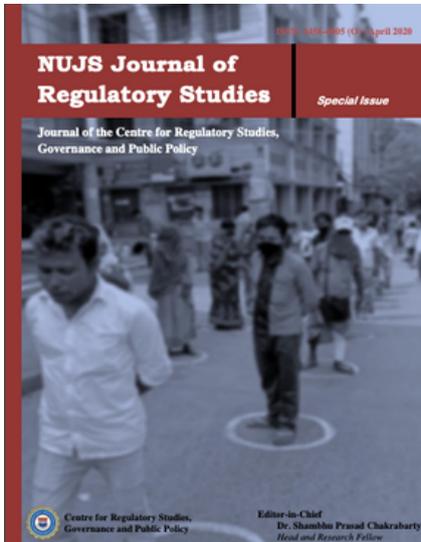
**Ms. Ankita Mitra**  
Researcher  
Department of Evolutionary Biology  
University of Hafia, Israel

7th May, 2020  
THURSDAY

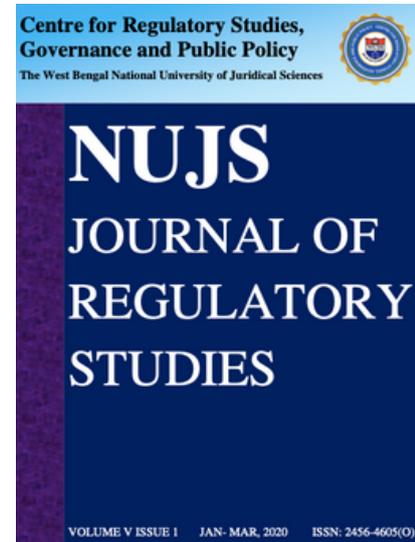
10 AM EST  
8:30 PM IST

*Register now*

## PUBLICATION



**NUJS Journal of Regulatory Studies  
Special Issue on COVID-19**



**NUJS Journal of Regulatory Studies  
Volume V Issue I**

## INTERN SPEAKS

# Internship Experiences

By **Tanvi Bhargava**  
Research Intern

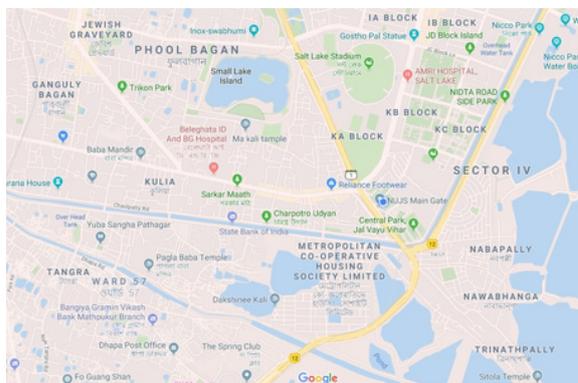
I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as a research intern at the Centre for Regulatory Studies, Governance and Public Policy at the National University of Juridical Sciences(WBNUJS), Kolkata from 6th July 2020 to 5th August 2020.

I had the chance to work under Dr. Ghosh who was extremely welcoming and helpful. I did research work on laws and judgements in India and abroad pertaining to child primary education rights. I compared the laws of different countries with regards to child education rights. I also had a chance to work on a paper which focused on primary education in India.

I am extremely grateful for all the research work that Dr. Ghosh gave me and took out time to guide me and interact with me. As a result of this experience, I am more excited than ever to utilize my time to write and research more. The online internship experience was wonderful, and I hope I get to work under Dr. Ghosh in person as well. I would like to thank you again for selecting me and for showing confidence in my abilities. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity.



## Locate Us



CRSGPP is located at Room No. 22, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS), Kolkata. WBNUJS is situated in the eastern part of the city of Kolkata at 12 L B Block, Sector III, Salt Lake City. The university is well connected by air, by roads and by rail (through five major railways stations, viz., Howrah, Sealdah, Kolkata, Shalimar and Santragachi). It is about 14 kms from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport. Almost all buses, public and private, connecting the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass and the centre of the city run through the bus stop located near WBNUJS. Taxis and hire vehicles are also available to and from the university almost 24 hours a day. The distance from the university to Howrah station is about 11 kms, to Sealdah station it is about five kms, to Kolkata it is about eight kms, to Shalimar it is about 16kms and to Santragachi it is about 19 kms. Placed in the prime area of Kolkata, the university may be accessed through various modes of transport within a reasonable time. It is at a walkable distance from the Salt Lake Stadium and is positioned just opposite (from the western side of the university) to the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kolkata. The university is adjacent to (from the eastern side) the All India Council of Technical Education and the Government College of Engineering and Leather Technology.

## OUR TEAM



*Prof. (Dr.) N.K. Chakrabarti, Vice Chancellor, WBNUJS*  
*Dr. Shambhu Prasad Chakrabarty, Head and Research Fellow, CSGPP*  
*Dr. Jayanta Ghosh, Research Fellow*  
*Dr. Santanu Panda, Research Associate*  
*Mr. Souvik Mukherjee, Research Associate*

*Ms. Somabha Bandhopadhyay, Research Assistant*  
*Ms. Rima Ghosh, Research Assistant*  
*Ms. Sanghamitra Baladhikari, Research Assistant*  
*Mr. Prantik Roy, Research Assistant*  
*Mr. Vijay Kumar Sinha, Research Assistant*  
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