



# ASECA CHANNEL

(A monthly Journal from All India ASECA)

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## Editorial

There are many video clips and audio files one can find in the Youtube website. The numbers are so high that it requires a considerable time to visit or see all such videos. The information flow is tremendous and one can find various programmes and events that are being happening across the length and breadth of the country and particularly in the Santal populated areas. The Information Technology inclusiveness is a great boon for the socially marginalized and deprived sections of people. Santali songs, dances, dramas are the bigger chunks in the net space. Even in the remote places, people browse the net and try to be in touch with other people. The Whatsapp and other social platform like Facebook are the commonly used platforms where people interact with each other. The forums are, however, not translated fully into a place for dissemination of knowledge but for forming some kind of social network. Few days back a young boy suggested to register in the platforms where young people are involved and through this process, social events and particularly social problems can be shared with them for better appreciation and understanding. But another set of advice came not to unnecessarily burden the young people with the social nuances and problems. The opposite advice has been a matter to discuss further to know whether the platform can be a solid space for social mobility and upgradation.

The contents of the interaction can be analysed. One can see it is the platform being used for sharing light jokes, interesting information and some day to day information. The use of internet could have been a great source to integrate people and facilitate them to be in touch with people from various geographical location and to share sorrows and happiness. The flow of information has so far been limited to some particular groups and within near relatives. There are instances where so many people started interacting through this virtual medium. Initially, there was euphoria and it seemed as if proper medium has been found and something can be done through this advantage. But

over a period of time, variety of thought processes surfaced without a break and also without a restraint. Whatever was coming to mind was expressed and with this kind of indulgence, there was no target rather all the time there was a talk of a target. The absence of a clear understanding on the issues sometimes makes people to offer suggestions in an unregulated way. The outcome always shapes the future of an initiative. When outcome became the casualty, future becomes uncertain. Slowly, people lost interest and it was a collapse of a great thought process and an idea to integrate and invigorate people.

The virtual relationship always has a constraint in not knowing the person at the other side. The limit of not interacting with people directly makes it impossible to know each other in a better and proper way. The absence of direct link restricts the opportunity to know each other. So confusion and conflicts are bound to occur and it stymies process of smooth and proper understanding and co-ordination. However, instances are there where people have effectively used this platform as a solid and effective medium to disseminate information as well as to bring together people for a common cause or for spreading awareness to bring about a change in the society. Therefore, it depends upon the initiator and the contents of the message as well as the involvement of the people, which shapes the consolidation of a foundation and later on to create a meaningful base to translate ideas into action. The information flow is there and it is the people actually who make use of that information and convert the same to their advantages. Information sharing is the important aspect and this has been the backbone of any good work or even it can take a shape of a movement. It is, therefore, required to be tapped and put to use for the common goal and aspirations. The potential should be utilized by the discerning people to see that fruits of the initiatives are percolating down to various formations and strata of the society in order to promote senses of belongingness, fraternity and solidarity for a greater cause and great future.



**Samu Murmu (15.07.1951 to 21.8.2015)**

Being in the Delhi Police, he was a contact point for any kind of help. Always, he comes forward to offer solutions to the problems brought to his knowledge. He was a Karmayogi and was a very much dedicated person to his service. In fact he was enjoying his job and not a single moment was observed as if he was tired. His zeal for life was extraordinary and he was blessed with a commanding voice. His journey from a village Karko, Govindpur post office in West Singhbhum district, then Bihar (Now Jharkhand) to Delhi after being selected in the Delhi Police was full of events. At that time, no fellow Santals were there in Delhi and he had to

adjust himself in Delhi. He had a keen interest in and love for music. Though he had spent considerable period of his life in Delhi, he had a unique penchant for his native place. He was very much inclined to his roots and culture.

He had pure thought about the Santal culture and society. His character was firm and friendly and he is sure to be remembered by the people who were associated with him. He was one of the founders of All India ASECA and he had immense contributions in shaping this association. We pray God to shower the departed soul an eternal peace and his family enough strength to bear the irreparable loss.

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## Folklore of the Santal Parganas

Translated by **Cecil Henry Bompas** of the Indian Civil Service, 1909

**{ASECA CHANNEL intends to publish the stories in order to familiarize the stories among the general public for their better appreciation}**

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{Continued from July issue}

### XXII. Lita and His Animals.

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Meanwhile it had become known that not only was Lita's wife missing but also her lover; and Lita's father presented a petition to the magistrate bringing this to notice and asserting that the two must have run away together. Then the magistrate ordered every search to be made for the missing couple but said that Lita must remain in custody till they were found, so he was shut up in prison. From prison he made an application to the magistrate that his three tame animals, the cat and the otter and the rat might be brought to the place where he was; the magistrate kindly consented but the animals were not allowed into the prison. However at night the rat being small made its way inside and found out Lita, and asked what was to be done. Lita said that he wanted the three animals to save him from his great danger as he had saved them; he wanted them to trace his wife and her lover and recover the ring; they would doubtless find them living in some gorgeous palace, the gift of the ring.

The rat went out and gave the other two Lita's message and they readily undertook to do their best; so the next morning the three animals set off. In vain they hunted all over the country, till one day they came to the bank of the Ganges and there on the other side they saw a palace shining like gold. At this their hopes revived, for this might be a palace made by the magic ring. But the cat and the rat objected that they could not cross the river. The otter said that he would easily manage that and he took the cat on his back and the rat climbed on to the back of the cat and so the otter ferried them both across the river; then they consulted and decided that it would be safest to wait till the evening before they went to the palace to see who lived in it. When they looked in in the evening, they at once recognised Lita's wife and

her lover; but these two were in constant terror of being pursued and when they had had their evening meal they fastened and bolted every entrance so securely that no one could gain admittance. Then the cat and the otter told the rat that he must collect all the rats of the neighbourhood and they must burrow through the wall and find some way of abstracting the magic ring.

So the rat collected a crowd of his friends and in no time they bored a hole through the wall; then they all began to look for the ring; they hunted high and low but could not find it; however the cat sat at the entrance of the hole which they had made and vowed that they should not come out, unless they got the ring. Then the first rat climbed on to the bed in which the couple were sleeping and searched their clothes and examined their fingers and toes but in vain; then he thought that the woman might have it in her mouth so he climbed on to her chest and tickled her nose with the tip of his tail; this made her sneeze and behold she sneezed out the ring which she had hidden in her mouth. The rat seized it and ran off with it and when the cat was satisfied that he had really got it, she let him out and the three friends set off rejoicing on their homeward journey. They crossed the river in the same way as when they came with the cat riding on the otter and the rat on the cat: and the rat held the ring in its mouth. Unfortunately when they were halfway across, a kite swooped down to try and carry off the rat. Twice it swooped and missed its grasp but the second time it struck the rat with its wing and the rat in terror let the ring fall into the river.

When they reached the bank the three friends consulted what they were to do in this fresh misfortune. As the otter was the only one who

could swim it volunteered to look for the ring, so it plunged into the water and searched the bottom of the river in vain; then it guessed that a fish must have swallowed the ring and it set to work to catch every fish it saw and tore them open; at last in the stomach of a big fish it found the ring, so it brought the fish to the bank and while they were all rejoicing and eating a little of the fish a kite swooped down and carried off the fish, ring and all.

The three animals watched the kite flying away with the fish; but some women who were gathering firewood ran after the kite and took the fish from it and putting it in their basket went home. Then the otter and the rat said to the cat "Now it is your turn: we have both recovered the ring once, but we cannot go into the house of these humans. They will let you go near them easily enough; the ring is in the fish's stomach, you must watch whether they throw away the stomach or clean it, and find an opportunity for carrying off the ring."

So the cat ran after the women and when they began to cut up the fish, it kept mewing round them. They threw one or two scraps to it, but it only sniffed at them and would not eat them; then they began to wonder what on earth the cat wanted, and at last they threw the stomach to it. This it seized on gladly and carried it off and tore it open and found the ring and ran off with it to where the otter and the rat were waiting. Then the three friends travelled hard for a day and a night and reached the prison in which Lita was confined.

When Lita got the ring he begged his jailer to get him a *seer* of milk and when it was brought he dropped the ring in it, and said "I wish the bed on which my faithless wife and her lover are sleeping to be brought here with them in it this very night" and before morning the bed was brought to the prison. Then the magistrate was

called and when he saw that the wife was alive he released Lita, and the lover who had run away with her had to pay Lita double the expenditure which had been incurred on his marriage, and was fined beside.

But Lita married another wife and lived happily with her. And some time afterwards he called the otter and the cat and the rat to him and said that he purposed to let them go and before they parted he would give them anything they wished for. They said that he owed them nothing, and they made Lita promise to let them know if ever he lost the ring or fell into trouble, and he promised to help them if ever their lives were in danger, and one morning he took them to a bazar, near which was a tank full of fish, and he turned the otter into the tank and left the cat and the rat to support themselves in the bazar. The next day he went to see them and the otter came out of the tank and gave him a fish which it had caught, and the cat brought him some milk it had stolen, and that was the last he saw of them.

### XXIII. The Boy Who Found His Father.

There was once a boy who used always to cheat when playing *Kati* (pitch and toss) and for this the village boys with whom he played used to quarrel with him, saying "Fatherless orphan, why do you cheat?" So one day he asked his mother why they called him that name and whether his father was really dead. "He is alive" said she "but a long time ago a rhinoceros carried him off on its horn." Then the boy vowed that he would go in search of his father and made his mother put him up provisions for the journey; and he started off taking with him an iron bow and a big bundle of arrows.

(To be continued....)

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