EDITORIAL

The academization of anthropology in India was a specific landmark in the history of the domain of human science as a whole. Long before the phenomenon in activating the process of inclusion of anthropology in the Universities, in this country, the subject in question saw a fertile field here in the administrative sphere during the British colonial administration. It would not be an exaggeration to say that anthropology sailed to India from Europe more or less two hundred years ago to exploit the knowledge of anthropological study and research in the realm of governance.

When through some specific situations of events the East India Company became the ruler of the country it fell in a problematic situation as because the company had no such efficiency to govern such a vast country which was not only exotic but unequivocally characterized by multiplex of religion, philosophical settings, values, sentiments and desires along with lots of superstition and blind faiths in the socio-cultural levels. But readily the company saw a discernible light to proceed forward when the British Government advised the Company for not to turn back and ultimately a group of experts was sent to India for having some meaningful discussions with the Board of Directors of the company in the matter of governing the country like India. It was a fruitful attempt and which was focused on the principle of understanding the world views and feeling the pulse of the people to be governed. Following that issue discrete attempts were made to understand the people through studying the people which needed knowledge-based methodical procedures. Thus it was arranged that the efficient administrators with specific training in anthropology would be sent from Europe to control the total situational context. It was so organized that the top level administrators in addition to their administrative responsibilities should take positive steps in studying the way of life of the people under the jurisdiction of their respective administrative set up. Thus that very course of action conducted a close marriage between anthropology and administration during the colonial administration in India. In due course through the multidimensional activities both in the administrative and academic spheres there developed a new and novel pattern of understanding the people under the governance of the colonial administrators. The total phase of activities of the administrator-anthropologists were perfectly characterized by the laborious and to some extent methodical activities of bringing out the nature and extent of the life-activities of the people and their philosophical orientations. To that context an arrangement was made by the British Government to start the training Course in Anthropology for the administrative personnel at Haileybury College in London before their sailing for India. As a pioneer step in that regard Francis Buchanan was appointed by the then Governor General in Council to conduct an ethnographic survey of the people of Bengal and their religion. It followed the process of deputing other