BANC 114: Anthropology of India
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT (TMA)

Course Code: BANC 114
Assignment Code: BANC 114/ASST/TMA/July 2026 and January 2027
Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in all the Sections.

Assignment - I

Answer the following in about 500 words each. **20X2=40**

a. Discuss the anthropological approach to the study of Indian villages.
b. Describe the problems of land alienation and indebtedness among tribes in India.

Assignment – II

Answer the following in about 250 words each (Write Short Notes). **10X2=20**

a. Diversity of Indian population.
b. Constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes.

Answer the following questions in about 75 words each. **2X5=10**

a. Purushartha
b. Nature-Man-Spirit Complex
c. Dalit women
d. Urban anthropology
e. B. S. Guha's racial classification

Assignment – III

a. Explain the meaning and purpose of fieldwork in anthropology. **20**
b. Write about the things to be kept in mind while conducting ethnographic research. **10**

a. Discuss the anthropological approach to the study of Indian villages.

Answer

Indian villages have occupied an important place in anthropology because a large part of India's population has historically lived in rural settlements. A village is not merely a cluster of houses or an agricultural unit. It is a social setting in which kinship, caste, land, religion, politics and everyday cooperation come together. The anthropological approach seeks to understand these relationships through close observation of actual village life rather than treating the village as a single, unchanging institution.

Development of village studies

Early writings by administrators and colonial scholars often presented Indian villages as isolated and self-sufficient communities. Later anthropologists challenged that picture. Systematic village studies developed especially after Independence. S. C. Dube's study of Shamirpet, M. N. Srinivas's work in Rampura, and studies associated with D. N. Majumdar, McKim Marriott and Oscar Lewis demonstrated the value of detailed fieldwork. They showed that each village has a particular history and social structure, while also being connected to wider Indian society. Srinivas's work drew attention to caste relations, social change and the role of powerful local groups. These studies made the village a useful place for understanding larger processes in India.

Fieldwork and the holistic method

The chief feature of an anthropological approach is intensive fieldwork. Researchers live in or repeatedly visit a village, observe daily activities, conduct interviews, prepare genealogies and record local events. Participant observation helps them see how people actually behave, which may differ from what they say should happen. A household survey provides information about occupations, education and landholding, while life histories reveal experiences of women, labourers and elderly people. Understanding a festival, for instance, may require examining caste participation, household expenditure, agricultural seasons and religious beliefs together. This holistic method links economic, political and cultural life rather than studying each separately.