

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I feel it is my pleasant duty to express my gratitude to everyone who has assisted me with this work because it would not have been possible without their support and belief in me. However, merely expressing gratitude would not be sufficient.

I am honoured to begin by conveying my sincere gratitude to Prof. K. Krishnan, my esteemed research supervisor. His invaluable guidance, unwavering encouragement, and the freedom he granted me to pursue research at my pace and style have been instrumental. His endorsement of diverse, academically rigorous methodologies has been my driving force in undertaking this study.

From the start of my research, I owe a debt of gratitude to S.B. Ota, the former Joint Director of the Archaeological Survey of India, for his encouragement in selecting the subject and advice on how to proceed and what would be useful for my future research. Special thanks to Dr. Manjil Hazarika, who helped me a lot, during the base period of my PhD journey, I would always be in debt to him. I would also like to thank all the faculty members of the department of Archaeology and Ancient History, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for their kind gesture throughout my research duration.

It is with great appreciation I acknowledge the University Grants Commission for offering me a fellowship for the full five years necessary to successfully complete this study.

I am also extending my gratitude to Vrushab Mahesh for diligently proofreading my thesis, enhancing its quality and clarity.

Bhupesh Pathak sir is greatly acknowledged due to his immense help during reference collection in the library. At the same time, I would like to thank Lala Bhai, Mahesh Bhai, Hansa Masi and I extend my gratitude for all.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Drs. Nabajit Deori and Chabina Hasan from the Directorate of Archaeology, Assam, for their invaluable support during my extensive field visit in the Dima Hasao district. Their assistance in facilitating connections with relevant officials was instrumental, given the extensive months of fieldwork required for my research. My research necessitates months of fieldwork. I am deeply grateful to the Haflong Cultural Department, especially Balpai Phonglo, V.L. Nampui, Mr. Mar, and Renkima Lalsing, for their unwavering support. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Bisen, his family, and the entire community of Mailu village, whose assistance and generosity were indispensable in making

my field trip a success. I must also acknowledge the presence of my dear friends, Gunita and Bhubanjay, as well as sister Chandrima, my brother Shyamal, and Mrinal. Their companionship and involvement made my fieldwork in Dima Hasao not only productive but also one of the most enjoyable experiences of my research journey. I again extended my gratitude to Salam Shyam Singh of Archaeological Survey of India, Guwahati circle, for giving me suggestions during my field visit to Karbi-Anglong. I am also grateful to Tunika Rongpipi from Karbi-Anglong and her entire family, who cheerfully accompanied me to the field and specifically looked after my food. I want to thank Lokendranath Hazarika, Dipujena Sarma, and Rintu Das from the Sonapur Student Union for their cooperation throughout the field trip at Sonapur, Kamrup district. Chinmoy's assistance during the Goalpara field trip and his intermittent assistance with the collection of books and references are also appreciated. Here, I also want to thank Rupam Rabha and the entire family of Orobi Roy for their co-operation during my stay for the exploration of Bambooti and nearby locations of Goalpara.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Prof. Dwipen Bezbaruah, head of the department of Anthropology, Senar Robinson from the same department, Bhabani Kumar Borah, the curator, Madhav Chandra Goswami Anthropology Museum, Gauhati university for giving me permission as well as helping me going through the material collection of Daojali hading and Bambooti. A special thanks to Sarbeswar Das from the same museum who not only helped during the museum visit but also assist me during the field visit to Ganapati, Rani. I must also thank Nitul Kumar Gogoi, head of the department, Gitanjalee Devi, Assistant professor, and Tara Nath Duwarah, the curator from Anthropology department, Dibrugarh University for giving me permission to study the in housed materials of Marakdola and Dibru valley in their museum.

Rashima Kachari and Abhisekh was a huge help in creating the map of the research area, and I would like to thank them both for that. Here, I would like to thank my friend Sankar for photoshop the artefacts and making the plates out of them. I want to thank Pranab Sharma, for his valuable suggestions and going through my works. I am extending my gratitude to Dr. Jayendra Joglekar for giving me suggestions related to my chapters and other thesis related works.

I am extending my gratitude to Navjot and Rajalakshmi, my friend and my home throughout my staying at Baroda, without whose encouragement and support, it would never be possible to finish my work. Simultaneously, I am forever thankful to my friends; Mousumi, Soorya,

Rishi, Jaydeep and Prabhashini for always keep encouraging me. Here, I want to thank Neelima, for all the valuable discussion on our topic as we work in the same geographical area. Special thanks to Oishy Roy, for keeping me with her from the very first day at my MSU period. Extended thanks to Disha Mehta (my hostel roommate), Trupti, Anil, Aditya, Bhakti, Gita, Akash, Jaugathi, Gopesh, and Praveen, were all motivating one way or the other.

Words cannot express my gratitude to Ambika Baishya, who constantly chastises me for being lazy while also motivating and supporting me to complete my work.

Last but not the least, it is essential to acknowledge the unwavering support and encouragement I received from my family, which significantly contributed to the successful completion of this work. During the course of my PhD journey, I experienced the loss of two beloved family members: My aunt (pehi), who took immense pride in my academic pursuits, and my father, whose steadfast belief in me, was a constant source of motivation. Their absence is deeply felt. My mother, aunt, and elder sister are the foundations of my strength. Koliya (Dorioli), and Baba (Sangram), who is also my support system, are my sources of joy. Additionally, I want to thank Kalu, my loyal pet, for his selfless love and affection for me.