



Anthropological Survey of India

NEW LETTER

January–March, 2012





Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India lighting the traditional lamp during the inauguration of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair. Shri Shakti Sinha, Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration looks on.



EDITORIAL

It is a matter of great pride that the Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre of Anthropological Survey of India at Port Blair celebrated its Diamond Jubilee during this quarter on completion of its 60 years of dedicated service to the nation. In fact, it was the first Regional Centre of the Survey established in 1951 by the founder Director, Dr. B. S. Guha, a real visionary, who could realize

the importance of Andaman and Nicobar islands as a potential centre of study and research for the anthropologists and for the development of the Negrito populations living there. It was befitting that on this occasion, Shri T. N. Pandit, the former Head of Office at Port Blair delivered the first B. S. Guha Memorial Lecture on 28 February 2012. We also celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore by organizing a two-day National Seminar, "Rural Reconstruction: Retrospect on Tagore's Visions", on 17 and 18 January 2012 in Kolkata, at which the key-note address was delivered by Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, the Director of Institute of Development Studies at Kolkata. Our International School of Anthropology

(ISA) also organized an eight-day training programme on "Development Anthropology" at the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore, for which there was an overwhelming response from within and outside the Anthropological Survey of India. Our North West Regional Centre at Dehradun organized a three-day workshop on interaction between the tribes and anthropologists, which was participated by resource persons from five tribes, the Bhotia, Boksa, Raji, Tharu and Jaunsari. This was a unique experiment of mutual learning. While we sent an exhibition on "Community Genetics and Health" to the 99th Indian Science Congress held at Bhubaneswar in the first week of January 2012, a two-day workshop with the same title was organized in Kolkata on 26 and 27 March 2012. Twenty of our research personnel were deputed to Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, to participate in the workshop, "Village Human Development" to intellectually equip them for the ensuing 12th Five Year Plan Research Projects of the Survey. On the whole, it was a very satisfying quarter for my colleagues and me at the Survey, thanks to the patronage received from our collaborators, colleagues at the Universities and research organizations, and the participating public in all our programmes. We look forward to serving the nation and the people of India to the best of our ability in the quarters to come.

Prof. Kamal K. Misra
Director

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

Border Area Studies

In continuation with the earlier forays in other border areas, intensive fieldwork was undertaken in the East District, Sikkim and Darjeeling District, West Bengal to study the international borders of Indo-China and Indo-Nepal.

Visual Anthropology

Documentation and audio-visual coverage of "Diyari festival of Halba Tribe" has been completed at the village Madhota, Bastar, Chhattisgarh and the report writing is under progress.

Field work was undertaken in Sundarban, West Bengal under the project 'Visual Anthropology: Study of Bonobibir Pala'.

Anthropological Study of Rajarhat

As the field work continues, most researchers are engaged in the field work of Rajarhat-Gopalpur area for collection of information and data. Simultaneously, analysis of data is also under progress.

Man and Environment

Eight scientific personnel studied the buffer and fringe villages of Manas Biosphere Reserve to collect data and information on the socio-cultural profile, economic activities, pattern and processes of resource utilisation, health, nutritional status and the scope of tourism.

DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian Populations

Data and blood samples were collected from the Tharu and Raji of Udham Singh Nagar & Pithoragarh districts (Uttarakhand), while a field team from the NERC has proceeded to collect data and blood samples from the Mara community of Saiha district, Mizoram.

Under a collaborative project, 'Genetic implication of ADH and ALDH genotypes on risk of alcohol addiction among the Khond and Gadaba tribes of Andhra Pradesh', a researcher has undertaken field work in the Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Reports Received

"Fishing in Coastal Karnataka Region"

"Intensive Community Study of the Kadar Tribe of Kerala and Tamil Nadu"

"Dukha Janjati: Udbikash Aur Lok-Kathan" (Hindi)

"Bison Horn Maria Janjati Manav Udbikash Aur Lok Barnan" (Hindi)

"Folk Narratives of Human Origin: Dhurwa and Bison-Horn Maria tribal communities"

"Holistic Approach to the Gurkhas of Karbari Grant Village: With Special Reference to Origin, History"

"Ethnic Identity, Social Structure and Dispute Solving Mechanism"

"Paramparagata Krishi Karya Ebong Iske Badalte Swarup Ka Adhyayan" (Hindi)

"Sacred Complex in Karbari Grant Village With Special Reference to Gurkha Community"

"Migration Pattern and Kinship Among Gurkha Community in Gurkha Karbari Grant, Dehra Dun"

"Uttaranchal – A Critical Appraisal to Bio-social Perspective"

"Health Care Practices and Traditional Medicine of Gorkha population in the village Karbari Grant"

"Village Study: Traditional Knowledge with special emphasis on Bhil"

"Traditional Knowledge with Special Emphasis on natural Environment and its influence on the life style of Bhils of Rajasthan" (Hindi)

"Pottery making and Terracotta Art: A study of Techniques and Art Forms and a Comparative study with the Terracotta Findings from Ahar / Banas Culture"

"Traditional Knowledge System among the Kharwa community of Gujarat with special reference to their Marine Fishing Technology"



A settlement in the Manas Biosphere Reserve

EVENTS

Exhibition on Community Genetics and Health

Anthropological Survey of India participated in the "Pride of India: Mega Expo during the 99th Indian Science Congress held at the KIIT University



An.S.I. Exhibition Stall during the Indian Science Congress 2012, Bhubaneswar

Campus, Bhubaneswar from 3rd to 7th January through an exhibition "Community Genetics and Health". The function was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. A large numbers of visitors from different scientific, educational and other institutions visited the stall and appreciated the effort.

The Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology, Govt. of Odisha presented a memento to the Anthropological Survey of India for its active participation.

Seminar on "Rural Reconstruction: Retrospect on Tagore's Visions"

On the eve of the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a seminar was organized on "Rural Reconstruction: Retrospect on Tagore's Visions" by the An.S.I. on 17th and 18th January to critically review and deliberate on the relevance of Tagore's thought & action and his multi-pronged approach to development. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. K. K. Misra,

Director, Anthropological survey of India and Prof. Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Director, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata delivered the key note Address. Fifteen eminent academics and Tagore scholars, including Shri Tushar Kanjilal participated in the seminar. A documentary film 'Rabindranath Tagore', produced and directed by Shri Mujibur Rahaman was specially screened on the occasion.



Prof. Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Director, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata being welcomed by the Director, Anthropological Survey of India during the Seminar on "Rural Reconstruction: Retrospect on Tagore's Visions"

Memorial Lecture

Dr. Bibash Dhar, Head of Office, NERC delivered a memorial lecture "Transhumants of the Arunachal Frontiers" on 11th January, in memory of the founder of the Anthropology Department, Late Dr. A. Das Gupta in Gurucharan College, Silchar, Assam.

Workshop on Man and Environment: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve Study

The Central Regional Centre of the An.S.I. has organized a consultative workshop on the project "Man and Environment: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve Study" at Palode, Thiruvananthapuram in

collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute on 19th January. The workshop was attended by Shri Rajaraja Varma, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Kerala, Shri C. S. Yalakki, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Kerala and Shri R. V. Varma, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board along with others. Shri K. Ravi, Head of Office introduced the workshop while Dr. Samit Ghosal,



Shri K. Ravi addressing the Workshop on Man and Environment

the Principal Investigator of the project presented the concept and design of the study 'Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve'.

Science Expo

The Central Regional Center of the Anthropological Survey of India participated in the first Science Expo along with thirteen other research



Science Expo panels being explained by an An.S.I. official

institutions organized from 19th to 21st January by the Raman Science Center, Nagpur. The event was conceptualized to bridge the gap between science and society by bringing the Institutes of repute in and around Nagpur to showcase the impact of their research activities on the society. As a part of this Expo, nine interactive lectures were also organized from the participating institutions. Eminent personalities from the fields of atomic energy, space exploration, environmental engineering, water resource management, biotechnology and anthropology gave lectures and interacted with the public during the Expo. The pavilion was well received and attended by more than 5000 visitors and received extensive media coverage.

Review of Physical Anthropology

All Officers-in-Charge of Physical Anthropology Division and DNA laboratories of different Regional Centers and Head Office have met in the Southern Regional Center, Mysore on



Workshop on Community Genetics and Health in progress

11th and 12th February to review the work of Physical Anthropology projects, under implementation in the An.S.I. Dr B. Francis Kulirani, Deputy Director (C), and P.B.S.V. Padmanabham, Convener of the Monitoring and Review Committee of the Physical Anthropology were present on the occasion. A report is under submission for the perusal of the Director.

Workshop on Community Genetics and Health

A two day workshop was organized by the Anthropological Survey of India in its Eastern Regional Center on 26th and 27th March to take stock of the work done under the larger project Community Genetics and Health and its different schemes. Prof. D. P. Mukherjee, Chairman, Institutional Ethics Committee, Prof. K. Saratchandra Singh, Member, National Advisory Committee and Prof. Barun Mukhopadhyay, Indian Statistical Institute were the experts present on the occasion. Dr. B. N. Sarkar, P. I. of the project has convened and conducted the Workshop. Researchers from the Central, North East, Andaman & Nicobar and Eastern Regional Centers and Head Office have presented their work. All researchers were requested to finalize their reports, based on the discussions, for publication.

Workshop on Village Human Development Report at TISS

Under the man-power training programme, twenty research personnel from Anthropological Survey of India have participated in an exclusive Workshop organized for the Survey on "Village Human Development Reports" by the Development Study wing of the



Faculty & participants during the Workshop on Village Human Development Report at TISS, Mumbai

Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) from 6th to 12th February, keeping in mind the 12th plan project of the Survey. Prof. S. Parasuraman, Director, TISS delivered the opening and valedictory addresses. Dr. Rohit Mutatkar of TISS was the coordinator. Altogether 18 exhaustive lectures were delivered by 15 eminent academicians and practitioners from varied disciplines, covering all aspects of development. The workshop culminated with the

Group Presentations on village human development report.

Tribal Cultural Festival of Nilgiris

Dr. C. R. Satyanarayanan, D.D. (C) and the Head of Office of the SRC was in Ooty on 14th and 15th February to preside over the 'Tribal Cultural Festival of Nilgiris' organized by the All India Radio, Ooty and Doordarshan, Coimbatore.

Interaction between Tribes and Anthropologists

Sixty four resource personnel from Bhotia, Boksa, Raji, Tharu and Jaunsari tribes discussed their problems and the emerging cultural scenario in Uttarakhand, in a unique workshop organized at the North West Regional Centre of the An.S.I., Dehradun on



Resource personnel during the Interaction between Tribes and Anthropologists, NWRC, Dehradun

Anthropologists from 18th to 20th March. They have also visited the Zonal Anthropological Museum and suggested other cultural artifacts that could be depicted in the Museum. The Tharu, Boksa and Raji have brought some artifacts for display in the Museum and have also shown keen interest to depict their housing patterns and life style in an open air museum. Health status of the resource persons was checked in the DNA Laboratory in terms of their BMI, Haematological and Biochemical parameters.

'Development Anthropology'

Under the aegis of international School of Anthropology (ISA), an eight day training programme on 'Development Anthropology' was organised at the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore from 19th to 26th March. Prof. Yogesh Atal, former UNESCO Regional Adviser, Social and Human Sciences for Asia and the Pacific was the Chief Guest who has inaugurated the training programme.



Prof. Yogesh Atal flanked by Dr. B. Francis Kulirani, OIC, ISA (right) and Dr. D. N. Pandey, HO, Head Office (left)



Prof. H. K. Bhatt and Prof. K. K. Misra during the Valedictory Session of 'Development Anthropology'

Twelve research personnel from outside and eleven from within the An.S.I. have participated in the course. The main objective of the training programme was to orient trainees towards the current debates on development and the anthropological perspective of development. The training programme covered a whole range of issues related to development anthropology ranging from concepts, theory and approaches to tools and

methodology and a one day field work to orient the trainees in the Participatory Rural Appraisal techniques (PRA). A total module of 26 lectures was delivered by the external and internal faculty during the course period. Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India & IGRMS was the chairman of the valedictory function.

Executive Committee meeting

An Executive Committee Meeting was organized on 17th January and from 19th to 24th January, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director (C) of Head Office in Kolkata, to review the proposed 12th Five Year Plan projects and to arrive at a realistic work-plan.

A day prior to the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the A&NRC, another Executive Committee meeting was organized on 27th February in Port Blair to discuss the ongoing and ensuing research projects to be taken up by the An.S.I., under the Chairmanship of Prof. K. K. Misra, the Director. In addition to taking important decisions on different pressing issues of the Regional Centers and Head Office, the Director has expressed that An.S.I. should take up all India level project/s involving annual survey, linked to measuring human development, in terms of various parameters. He suggested that we may initially focus on Particularly Vulnerable



Executive Committee meeting in progress

Groups and a committee was setup to explore this possibility. And this time the focus was also on assisting the Andaman & Nicobar administration in the preparation of a synopsis. The introductory note that was sent to the Directorate of Tribal Welfare in January 2012 was presented in a separate meeting held on the first of March. It was decided that the An.S.I. will undertake studies on different buffer zone villages of the Jarawa Reserved Territory and also a detailed Bio-Anthropological study of the Jarawa. Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India chaired the meeting and all Heads of Office & other Executive Committee members have participated in it.

Janjatiya Paridrishya avam Sasaktikaran

Anthropological Survey of India's Zonal Anthropological Museum at the Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur organized an exhibition "Janjatiya Paridrishya avam Sasaktikaran" (Tribal Scenario and Empowerment) on the eve of Adi Adhikar Sammelan organized by Chhattisgarh State Scheduled Tribe Commission on 18th March. The exhibition is an eclectic mix of text panels, photographs and exhibits for better elucidation of the theme. The exhibition was visited by more than 5000 people including State Ministers, MP, MLA, senior Govt. officials, traditional community leaders (Majhi – Chalki, Sirha) and Panchayat leaders.

Departmental Promotion

On a departmental promotion, Dr. B. Francis Kulirani has been promoted to join the post of Deputy Director (Cultural) on 2nd January at the Head Office, Kolkata.

Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair



Shri Shakti Sinha, Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration releasing a special issue, on the A&N Island populations, of the Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India during the inauguration of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The inaugural function of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Anthropological Survey of India, A&NRC, Port Blair was held on Feb 28 to mark its 60 years splendid existence. Shri Shakti Sinha, Chief Secretary of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Port Blair was the Chief Guest. Prof. K. K. Misra, Director has delivered the presidential address and described the occasion as a matter of great pride for the fraternity of the Anthropological Survey of India.

The highlight of the occasion was B.S. Guha Memorial Lecture 'Inter-play of hunter-gatherers, anthropologists and administrators: Story of Andaman and Nicobar Islands since 1951.' delivered by Shri T.N. Pandit who headed the Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre for more than a decade. This Memorial Lecture was named after Dr. B.S. Guha, the founder Director of the Anthropological Survey of India.

To commemorate the occasion, a National Seminar "Land, forest, water and people: Competing interests & emerging realities/issues" has been organized on 28th and 29th February. Twenty eight research papers were deliberated during the course of the seminar touching different issues like carrying capacity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, endangered species, the problems of vulnerable hunter-gatherer groups like the Ang (Jarawa), Sentinelese and Shompen, the policy of 'Protection and insulation of the Ang versus their Mainstreaming', consideration of emic (insider) views, disturbing scenarios on the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR), the policy of 'Maximum autonomy with minimum and regulated intervention', use of land & resources, cultural identities of the Adivasis, sources of their sustenance and development etc. Dr. M. Sasikumar, Deputy Director proposed a vote of thanks.

Prof. R.S. Mann was the speaker of the Valedictory function, while Prof. K. K. Misra presided over the function. Reminiscing their posting in Port Blair, former Heads of Office left no stones unturned in their attempts to inspire the young and promising scholars to take extreme care while doing fieldwork with the tribesmen in these Islands. While proposing a vote of thanks, Dr. A. Justin, Head of Office recalled the memorial lecture dedicated to Prof. Guha. Mementos were distributed to all the dignitaries on the dais, Heads of office, Executive Committee members, participants & staff of the A&NRC, Port Blair. The gala function of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations concluded with festive fervour by a cultural programme of the Nicobarese & Chotanagpur folk dance and music by the Nicobarese.

Republic Day Celebrations, 26th January



Farewell



Front Cover: Baiga, Madhya Pradesh



Published by
Director

Anthropological Survey of India

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata – 700 016

Phone : (033) 22861781 / 22861733 / 22529892

Email : newsletter@ansi.gov.in | Website : www.ansi.gov.in