



Anthropological Survey of India

NEW LETTER

April-June, 2014





Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India inaugurated the upgraded sequencing facility in the DNA Laboratory of the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore on 13th June

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Reader,

Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture and the Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee of the Anthropological Survey of India

inaugurated the upgraded Next Generation Sequencing facility at the Southern Regional Centre's DNA laboratory, in presence of NAC members. This facility will not only fasten the pace of its output, but to take up a study of the Anthropologically significant communities to understand the still enigmatic peopling of India.

Over the past few decades, many developments have changed the way Anthropology is practiced. There is a paradigm shift in Physical / Biological Anthropology by adopting methods of Molecular Biology. Some important publications by the An.S.I.

on the "New Genetics" have been brought out in peer reviewed journals.

Field studies as part of 'Village Study' are in full swing. One day demonstration-cum-workshop, on "Tribal Ways of Environment Management", a four day in-house Orientation Course-cum-Workshop on Genetic sequencing for fifteen young researchers and initiation of the Rann of Kutch Biosphere reserve study are highlights of this quarter. In addition to observing World Environment Day, International Museum day and World Indigenous Day, documentation activities and a Tribal Dance Festival of the western & central India organized by the Central Regional Centre were part of An.S.I.'s out reach activities.

With more news on our activities, we would bring out another edition of our Newsletter shortly.

Wish you all a joyous Dussera & prosperous Diwali.

G.S. Rautela
Director

RESEARCH UPDATE

Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development

Envisaging the main objectives and expected target for the project, the second phase of fieldwork was continued at all the selected locations, including Sardi of Chhattisgarh, Kapileswar of Odisha, Chowra Island, Central Nicobar and Jaurasi of Gwalior district, Madhya Pradesh.

Reconnoitre study was undertaken in the villages of Sultanpur, Madhopura (Senapur) and Lakhamandal (North West Region), Radhvanaj, Kheda district, Kasandra, Ahmedabad district and Jambur, Gir Somnath district (Western Region) and Ghagra, Jharkhand (Eastern Region).

Reports on Kuotala of Birbhum district (West Bengal), Anjan of Jharkhand, Idukki village of Kerala, Lingthen village of North Sikkim and Parsa, a Mithila village of Bihar (reconnoitre study) have been submitted while the report on Rampura, Mysore district is in progress.

An Ethnographic Study of Shompen

Fieldwork for the regional project "An Ethnographic Study of Shompen" in the Great Nicobar Island has been undertaken by a team of research personnel.

Man and Environment

Fifteen day reconnoitre tour to the Rann of Kutch villages, Gujarat was completed in pursuance of the 'Rann of Kutch Biosphere Reserve Study' by a team of research personnel.

Bio-cultural Adaptation: Community Health & Lifestyle Diseases

A science awareness camp and exhibition was organized under the project, 'Bio-cultural Adaptation : Community Health & Lifestyle Diseases like Diabetes, Obesity & Hypertension' by a team of research personnel of the An.S.I. after a popular lecture at the Rishra Institute, Rishra of Hooghly district, West Bengal on 5th June.



*A gathering of menfolk in the Kala Dungar village, Rann of Kutch Biosphere
Photo courtesy: Dr Samit Goshal*

Standardization of Rsa-Rsa-D, B-Hinf is being continued and the dilutions of Nihal, Abhujmaria and Korku community samples are in progress under the 'Community Genetics and Health: Human Genetics Extension Programme.

Editing of Mt-DNA analysis of Bidar case/control sequenced data is in progress under the Community Genetics & Health: Bio-cultural Adaptation.

Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair of the Survey has organized an awareness programme on the haemoglobinopathies among local students and Ashram school boarders.

Physical Growth and Development of Children in North East India

Fieldwork was undertaken in the Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya covering three Garo villages, Philiang Kata, Nongspung and Behenadi.

DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian Populations

Massive screening of mt-DNA sequencing work for 24 primer sets is in progress in the DNA laboratory of the SRC, Mysore. So far, 25 communities have been covered for wet lab analysis. More than 250 plates from about ten communities were made ready and sequencing of these plates is in progress. Editing of sequences has also been taken up for some communities. PCR work on Konda Reddy, Naika and Jaunsari community samples is also in progress.

Work related to ALU insertion primers in the DNA laboratory of the NWRC, Dehradun is under progress while DNA isolation, quantification, serum isolation, Haematology analysis, ALU insertion polymorphism through PCR are being continued.

Traditional Craft of Tamta

Fieldwork has been undertaken in Almora district to collect information on the traditional craft work of Tamta of Uttarakhand, for organizing a workshop in Dehradun.

Documentation & Dissemination

A reconnoitre tour was undertaken to Kala Nabagram village of Burdwan district (West Bengal) for the visual coverage of Kora tribal group in connection with a photographic exhibition to be organized during the 'International Day of World's Indigenous People'.

A team of researchers from the An.S.I. Head Office has proceeded on tour to the Mon district of Nagaland, for audio-visual documentation of Konyak community culture, as a TSP programme.

Tribal Ways of Environment Management

One day training-cum-demonstration programme was organised on 'Tribal Ways of Environment Management' in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research & Development, Kolkata on 6th June.



Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture (seen here with Immulite 1000 instrument) dedicated the upgraded sequencing facility to the DNA Laboratory, Southern Regional Centre, Mysore

EVENTS



National Advisory Committee meeting chaired by Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture & Chairman of the National Advisory Committee of the Anthropological Survey of India, is in progress

National Advisory Committee

Anthropological Survey of India organised its fifth meeting of the National Advisory Committee on 13th June, with the Hon'ble Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture and the Chairman of the Committee in chair along with the members of the Committee and the Director of the Survey at its Southern Regional Centre, Mysore to confirm the minutes of the last meeting and to consider the follow-up action taken in respect of An.S.I.'s programmes as in the minutes of the last meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Anthropological Survey of India and Ministry of Culture, Government of India on 22nd May for the financial year 2014-15 to achieve the organizational goals by optimum use of the funds available and proper functioning of the An.S.I.

Next Gen Sequencing, Ion Torrent

Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture inaugurated the latest installed facility of the Next Gen Sequencing, Ion Torrent, PGM at the DNA laboratory of the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore on 13th June and dedicated it to the service of the laboratory, in the presence of the National Advisory Committee members.

A Workshop on Next Gen Sequencing

A four day Orientation course on Next Gen Sequencing (Ion-Torrent PGM) was conducted in the DNA Laboratory, SRC, Mysore from 11th to 14th June under the auspices of the International School of Anthropology. Fifteen young researchers from An.S.I. have attended the course.

Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

Shri D.N. Pandey, Senior Ecologist of the An.S.I. represented the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India in the 27th Session of Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) on 'Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore' held at Geneva, Switzerland from 1st to 4th April.

Anthropologists & Human Ecologists on other Forums

The Director of the Anthropological Survey of India nominated senior Anthropologists/Human Ecologists to represent the An.S.I. and or to provide qualitative inputs, on different forums. Some instances are:

The Advisory Committee of the Centre for Community Knowledge, Ambedkar University, New Delhi on 7th April.

The Task Force of Ministry of Tribal Affairs held at Bhubaneswar on 24th & 25th April.

A meeting of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi on 9th May for building up of an inter-institutional network to reach out to marginalized and disadvantaged linguistic and artistic communities.

A meeting of the Task Force of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 16th May in New Delhi.

A Review Meeting with the Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi on 23rd May in connection with present position of Recruitment Rules (RRs) and vacancies in the Anthropological Survey of India.

For de-accession of a few objects mainly fibre-glass models in the Anthropology section of the Indian Museum, Kolkata.

The Research Advisory Committee Meeting of the KIRTADS, Kerala on 21st June, 2014 at Trivandrum.

For preparation of collaboration with the Korean institutes and for implementation of the exchange programme under Cultural Exchange Programme between Government of India and Government of the Republic of Korea for the years, 2014-2017.

Visual Anthropology

Films on Himalayan Pastoralist communities, Changpa of Ladakh, Bakarwal of Jammu & Kashmir and Gaddi of Himachal Pradesh directed by Shri Bappa Ray of Bappa Ray Productions, New Delhi for the Anthropological Survey of India were screened during a meeting of the Visual Anthropology Technical Committee. Prof Mihir Bhattacharya took an active part in the meeting, as an external expert.

Guidelines for Visual Documentation projects were finalized and proposals for audio-visual documentation were discussed during a meeting of the Visual Anthropology Technical Committee at the Head Office of the An.S.I. on 17th April in the presence of Prof Mihir Bhattacharya, former professor of Films Studies, Jadavpur University & Prof. Amaresh Chakrabarty of SRFTI, Kolkata, the external experts.

"Santal Marriage & Charak" Festival

Dr.Kakali Chakrabarty, S.A.(C) and a team of researchers organized the documentation of "Santal Marriage & Charak" festival held at Ramnagar village, Birbhum, West Bengal from April 14 to 25, under the 'Documentation & Dissemination'.

Tribal Dance Festival

Central Regional Centre, Nagpur of the Anthropological Survey of India organized a Tribal Dance Festival, participated by Kalbelia, Saharia, Gond, Baiga and Sidi communities of western



Kalbelia dance during "Folk Music and Dances of Indian Tribes" organized by the Central Regional Centre, Nagpur in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

& central India at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh on 21st and 22nd May as a TSP programme, under the Plan Scheme 'Documentation & Dissemination'.

World Environment Day-2014

World Environment Day-2014 was observed at all Regional Centres/Sub Regional Centre of the Anthropological Survey of India and on the occasion, lectures were delivered on



Drawing competition in progress in the Central Regional Centre, Nagpur

environmental issues. Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair of the An.S.I. received a Certificate of Appreciation from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

International Museum Day

Anthropological Survey of India, its Regional Centres and the Sub Regional Centre have organized different programmes on the eve of the International Museum Day on 18th May, under the TSP Programme.

Bharat Jyoti Certificate of Excellence

Dr. Bishma Narain Singh, former Governor of Tamil Nadu & Assam, has awarded the Bharat Jyoti Certificate of Excellence to Dr D. S. Hooda of the Anthropological Survey of India, in honour of his meritorious Service, Outstanding Performance & Remarkable Role at a Seminar on Economic Growth & National Integration held at New Delhi.

Visit of the Lieutenant Governor

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Andaman & Nicobar Administration paid a visit to the Zonal Anthropological Museum (ZAM) of the An.S.I., Andaman Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair and apprised himself of the entire disturbing scenario in different tribal reserve pockets including the fire incident that took place in the first week of April 2014 on North Sentinel Island. The Secretary (TW) & the Executive Secretary, AAJVS, Andaman & Nicobar Administration (A&NA) accompanied the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.

Executive Committee meeting

First Executive Committee meeting of the Anthropological Survey of India, for the financial year 2014-15, was held from 26th to 28th May at the Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata which was attended by all Heads of Office of the Regional Centres and the Sub Regional Centre including senior officers to review and evaluate the activities of the An.S.I. as per the sanctioned budget grant and Survey's Annual Action Plan & RFD for the year, 2014-15.

Hindi Work Shops

Anthropological Survey of India has organised Hindi workshops at its Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata, North West Regional

Centre, Dehra Dun, Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair and at the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore on 17th, 18th, 27th and 26th & 27th June, respectively under the 'Hindi Scheme' of the Government of India.

Recruitment

Shri Prabir Kumar Jana has joined as Statistical Investigator Grade II on 26th June.

Departmental Promotion

Shri A.Justin joined as Deputy Director (C) on Departmental promotion from the position of Superintending Anthropologist (C). Shri Swapan Das, Shri R.K.Sinha Roy, Smt. Geeta Bannerjee and Shri O. Syiemlieh have been promoted to the position of Assistant on Departmental promotion from the post of UDC. Shri Abhik Kumar Roy has been promoted as Office Superintendent from the post of Assistant while Shri Sukanta Saha has been promoted to the post of Senior Sound Technician from the post of Sound Technician.

Super Annuation

Shri R. K. Sinha Roy (30th April), Assistant, Dr A. V. Arakeri (30th May), Superintending Anthropologist (C), Dr P.B.S.V. Padmanabham (30th May), Superintending Anthropologist (P), Dr S.N.H. Rizvi (30th June), Anthropologist (P), Shri Abhik Kumar Roy (30th June), Office Superintendent and Shri Manoj Kumar Dutta (30th June), Photo Artist have retired from active Government service on attaining the age of superannuation on the dates given in the parentheses.



"Rajyabhasha Sangoshti", Hindi Workshop inauguration in the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore



Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata organized a training programme-cum-workshop on mat weaving, preparation of mat etc. in Ramnagar village (district Birbhum, West Bengal) which is mostly populated by Santal



Front Cover : Kalbelia dancer with folk musicians from Rajasthan | *Photo credits* : Shri N. K. Shrimali

Back Cover : 1. Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture & Shri G. S. Rautela, Director, Anthropological Survey of India in the Zonal Anthropological Museum (ZAM), SRC, Mysore
 2. Shri Virendra Kataria, Lt. Governor, Puducherry in the ZAM, A&NRC, Port Blair
 3. School children in the ZAM on the International Museum Day, NWRC, Dehradun



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