



Anthropological Survey of India

NEW LETTER

April - June, 2015





Inauguration of Exhibition 'People of India' at Sikkim University, Gangtok by Prof. T.B. Subba, Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University, Gangtok

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Readers,

With immense pleasure I report to you that second quarter (April-June) of this year became meaningful with dynamic practices of anthropology in various ways, on diverse bio-cultural back-drop of our vast nation. Intensive field investigation is our strength that we capitalized even in the scorching heat of the mid-summer for unfolding

various underlying anthropologically significant issues of rural and urban societies in several parts of the country.

Our on-going study, "Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development" is now in an impressive shape with completion of some of the village studies within the stipulated period. Meanwhile, some of the remote villages/areas of difficult terrain have already explored under the final phase of field-work by our scholars during this period. Simultaneously our biological anthropology division has finished editing of sequenced data of Padhar, Koraga, Angami Naga, Kutia Khond and Toda

community samples thus enabling us to understand their origin and phylogenetic relation and their route of migration, if any.

Apart from committed research programmes, audio-visual documentation of Nabakalebar of Lord Jagannath-2015; Karam Binti of Santal and ethnographic study of the Shompen of the Great Nicobar Island were major activities of this quarter. In addition to these, study of the holy city of 'Sri Amritsar' under "Documentation and Dissemination (under HRIDAY & PRASAD)" programme will begin for anthropological documentation of great Indian cultural heritage site in near future.

Observation of International Museum Day on 18th May; World Environment Day on 5th June and International Day of Yoga on 21st June was done by organizing lectures and peoples' participatory activities at Regional Centres, to bring out the significance of these occasions.

I do hope, our journey towards achieving the laid down objectives of An.S.I. in coming months, will continue with more conviction and dedication.

G.S. Rautela
Director

RESEARCH UPDATE

Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development

Restudy of Indian villages/areas after an interval of four/five decades was found to be satisfactory during this quarter, in terms of achieving the goals. Final report on Jaurasi village (Madhya Pradesh), Gunwadi/ Gaon (Maharashtra), Sardi (Chhattisgarh), Kuotala/Pearson's Pally (West Bengal) has been submitted. Second/final phase of field work was completed at Chowra Island (A&N Islands), Birshingha (West Bengal), Senapur (Uttar Pradesh), Madagada (Andhra Pradesh), Jambur (Gujarat), Sultanpur (Haryana), Hebbale (Karnataka) and Kalamati (West Bengal). First phase of field work was completed at Champakad (Kerala), Chetlat Island (Lakshadweep), Shella and Tyrna villages (Meghalaya). Let's have a glimpse of some studied villages/areas:

Champakad (Kerala)

Champakad is a tribal village inhabited by the Hill Pulaya community located within the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in the Devicolam taluk of Idukki District in Kerala. About 81 Hill Pulaya families live in Champakad in 63 households, with a population of 252 (140 males and 112 females). This tribal settlement was established during late 1950s, as one of the three pilot tribal areas allocated to the Hill Pulayas under the recommendation of a Committee appointed by the erstwhile Government of Travancore-Cochin which looked into the conditions of Hill Tribes of Kerala.

Champakad was earlier studied in 1966 under the 'Village Survey Monographs: Tribal Areas of the Census of India, 1961. This is taken as the point of reference or benchmark study for the present one. According to 1966 study, Champakad was originally formed as part of the Rehabilitation of Hill Tribes, with 25 Hill Pulaya tribal families in 15 houses, some houses accommodating two families.

Our present study found that over a period of 60 years, the Hill Pulaya of the Idukki district, including the Champakad village, by and large, continue to make a living primarily as wage labourers in agriculture, road work and forestry operations. Since 2002, eco-tourism has been initiated in Champakad and in few other Hill Pulaya settlements, as an important activity for income generation, under the Kerala Forestry Project. Almost one third of the youth of Champakad are able to make a living through ecotourism as Trekking Guides and Vendors in eco-shop. The Forest Department also employs some youth as fire-watchers and anti-poaching squad in their forest protection activities. Three Women SHGs, each with 20 members, are functioning in the settlement. With some training in making pickles, snacks, soaps, etc. they are now engaged in these income generation activities, but have some difficulties in marketing their products. A medical dispensary with a full-time pharmacist is now functioning as an Ayurvedic Hospital. Concrete roofed houses have replaced all their previously built tiled houses. A Post Graduate and a few graduates have emerged in this forest settlement but they are yet to find employment in Government.

Byrlutigudem (Andhra Pradesh)

Byrlutigudem, 13 kms and 60 kms away from Atamkur mandal and Kurnool, district head quarters respectively, is a Chenchu resettled village, established in 1905 by the Forest department to work in forest related activities, besides controlling and preventing indiscriminate tree felling and burning. It is a reserved forest village under Nallamalai Eco-system and a part of NSTR (Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve). The village is named after a combination of two words i.e. Byr, who is a local deity called Byrava, and luti which means pond or plunder. It has turned into a multi-ethnic village for the last four decades with 499 inhabitants comprising of 247 male and 252 females, distributed in 135 families/households. Adavi Chenchus have 110 families, who occupy top most position in the social hierarchy followed by Kummari, Muslim, Odde, Odde Christian, Chenchu Dassari and Madiga.

Traditional elaborate system of Kula Panchayat headed by a peddamanishi (chief) became weak and confined to with the introduction of Statutory Panchayat, in which at least one female/male Chenchu is a member. Traditional crop rising for self-consumption and eating of 'gaddalu'(tubers) was almost given up with the availability of highly subsidized rice of 35 kgs per family; dependence on NTFM produce was reduced gradually which led them to become idle. Most of the adult males are addicted to alcohol and almost half of the Chenchu women are fond of tobacco chewing. Very few families have adopted agriculture. Nomadic seasonal migration has declined with the advent of development programmes. Very few Chenchus continue to be engaged in menial jobs and as Palanquin carriers at Srisailem temple.

Byrlutigudem has almost all infra-structural facilities like primary/high school, boys and girls hostel, sub-health centre, sub-post office, Forest Depot, Anganwadi (providing supplementary nutrition to women and child), Girijamna Co-operative Society and



A Chenchu family of Byrlutigudem

one fair price shop etc. A majority of the families were somewhat benefited by housing, public distribution system, social security programmes and MGNREG scheme. 11 SHGs have contributed towards empowerment of Chenchu women. Yet, on the whole, all the poverty alleviation programmes, school education system and agriculture system in the village are not totally successful. Only one graduate has emerged from the village. More than one third of the Adavi Chenchu adults and majority of children are under-nourished and under-weight owing to poverty, changing food habits owing to depletion of forest resources.

Madagada (Andhra Pradesh)

The Madagada is a multiethnic village situated at a distance of eight kilometers from the Araku Valley. The major tribes in the village are Bhagata, Goudu, Kotiya, Konda Dora, and Valmiki and the castes are Kapu, Kamsali, Kummari, Sundi and Gasi. The total



Artisan of Madagada on the way to weekly market

population of the village Madagada is 1213 comprising of 598 males and 615 females (Census 2011). The Bhagata households are situated on the higher elevation and Valmiki and other community households are on a lower gradation. Traditionally their staple food was chodi (ragi). At present, they eat rice supplied by G.C.C depot. They take ragi gruel in the morning. Most of them speak Oriya and Telugu.

The Bhagata and Valmiki are the economically dominant groups. Agriculture is the principal subsistence economy. The village council has representation of all tribal groups and the head of the Madagada village council is from Bhagata tribe. The headmanship is hereditary and succession is in the male line. Since 1962, the villages in the agency are administered by democratically elected bodies.

Development programmes in Madagada village represent the activities of the Multi-purpose Block of Araku (1956-67), the Tribal Development Block of Paderu (1962-75) and the ITDA of Paderu (1975-78). The ITDA at Paderu has been implementing various programmes like education, health, agriculture and other poverty alleviation programmes.

The village has a Primary Health Centre and manned by a Medical Officer and few other para-medical staffs. Under the Madagada PHC, eight sub-centres are functioning. The village is supported by two Anganwadi Centres. Under Immunization programme,

OPV, DT, Vitamin A, Hepatitis B, Measles and DPT are administered every Wednesday and Saturday. Pregnant women are coming forward to the hospital for deliveries because of "Sukhibhava Scheme" under which a sum of rupees one thousand is given as incentive for each hospital delivery. It is reported that two cases of Moderately Acute Malnutrition (of one 1 year and another 2 years old boy respectively) were identified and treated. About 19.38% of the population is found to be anemic.

DNA-polymorphism of Contemporary Indian Population

During this quarter, our scholars have finished the editing of sequenced data generated from Mitochondrial DNA (mt-DNA) of Padhar, Koraga, Angami Naga, Kutia Khond and Toda community samples. Sequence editing of Thai Ahom, Thai Kampti, Konda Reddy, Karen, Nayak and Jaunsari is in progress. Besides, mt-DNA sequence of 141 samples from Lakshadweep is also in progress.

Community Genetics and Health (Human Genetics Extension Programme)

The Anthropological Survey of India in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh organized a Genetic screening for Sickle Cell Anaemia and Awareness Programme among the Dorla -a tribal community from three villages of Murkeynaar, Chinnakawali, and Borje, District Bijapur (South Bastar), Chhattisgarh from 18th June, 2015 to 20th June, 2015, under the National project entitled "Community Genetics and Health". Blood samples were screened for haemoglobinopathies including the assessment of random Blood sugar, Blood pressure, and nutritional status through anthropometry among the Dorlas. In the said camp, venous blood samples were collected from 236 individuals. Besides, 460 Dorla individuals were anthropometrically measured for Height (cm), Weight (Kg), Mid-upper arm-Circumference (MUAC) (cm), Tricep skinfold thickness (mm), and Head circumference (cm) (only for the children aged up to 5 years). The team was comprised of the members both from the Anthropological Survey of India of Kolkata, and Anthropological Survey of India, Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur; and Bijapur District Hospital, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh.

In this camp, the participating Dorla community members were also clinically checked for their health and simultaneously provided with medicines by the Doctors of Bijapur District Hospital, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh.

Beta-globin gene sequencing are being undertaken for molecular characterization of Sickle Cell Anaemia and Thalassemia as well as to detect the Haplotype (lineage) association at Beta-*Ava II* and *Hinf I* sites of the said gene in studied population of Nagpur City. Besides, forty direct sequences of Beta-globin gene have been carried out during this period under reporting.

A team of research personnel of this Survey organized Thalassemia Screening Camp for the Girls of marriageable age at Jagatpur Rukhmini Vidyamandir, Kolkata on 11th June, 2015.

EVENTS

Health awareness programme

The Santal is one of the major tribal groups of the Eastern part of India. They have their unique cultural heritage, cultural ethos and belief system, which distinguish them from the other neighbouring tribal communities. So far as the health seeking behavior is concerned, it is experienced that, despite their exposure to modern Medicare



Folk drama for mass-awareness on social evils

system for years, diagnosis, as well as healing of diseases, is not free of superstitions. They still believe that evil spirits, evil eyes, black magic etc. cause various diseases. Such beliefs often indulge some evil practices in the society, like identification of dain (witch) and such others.

In view of this, Eastern Regional Centre of Anthropological survey of India, Kolkata had organized a three days long "Awareness programme on community health practices and eradication of social evils" among the Santals of Ramnagar village of Birbhum (West Bengal) during June 17-19, 2015. In the programme, all 80 families of the village had participated with remarkable enthusiasm. Safe motherhood, child care, usefulness of immunization and vaccination, personal hygiene and toilet practices, low-cost balanced diet depending on locally available food resources were the focal aspects of the awareness programme. Simultaneously, eradication of social evils like witch-craft, black magic was emphasized through drama enacted by local youths.

Capacity building

A five day training programme-cum-workshop on 'Traditional Handicrafts from date-palm leaves' was organized by Eastern Regional Centre, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata during 16-20 June at Kuotala (Pearson's Pally), Birbhum (West Bengal). The

village, as a whole, was enthusiastic about the programme. Altogether 25 persons from Santal community participated in the programme. During these five days training programme, they were oriented with various techniques of making talai/maadur (mat), patio/chatai (sitting mat), janak (broom), thaila (carry-bag), etc. from locally available date-palm leaves by the experts from their own community. This training programme not only helped them to revive their tradition but also opened an avenue for subsidiary source of earning.



Knitting of thaila (bag) from khijur-sakam (date-palm leaves)

Documentation & Dissemination

The Nabakalebar Festival of Puri - 2015

Audio-visual documentation of Nabakalebar festival of Lord Jagannath, Puri has been initiated by a team of Anthropological Survey of India. It is an elaborate festival related to the re-embodiment of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Sudarshan in which they relinquish their old bodies and assume a new one. This festival is of a periodical renewal of old bodies (wooden bodies) while the soul remains the same. Nabakalebar is observed following the Indian almanac, where, in a particular year, the month of Asadha has two full moons (Joda Asadha or double Asadha). This year is identified as Nabakalebar year (usually taking place in 12-19 year interval). In the 20th century it was held in 1912, 1931, 1950, 1969, 1977 and 1996.

It is reported in 'Nabakalebar Bidhan' that God utters his Nabakalebar in that theological doctrine that "even though I am Purna Brahma, free from birth to rebirth, I am your God, I am not separate from you. As a jiva (living being) leaves its worn out body and enters into another body afresh, I also follow the same procedure, because I am not separate from Jiva".

Keeping these issues in view, Anthropological Survey of India is undertaking the audio visual documentation of the whole event in a holistic manner so as to capture the entire event. *Nabakalebar*



Selected Daru Brahma (sacred Neem tree) for Nabakalebar of Lord Jagannath, Puri

festival starts with *Banajagajatra* (i.e. search of the sacred wood) in which groups of *Daittapatis*, accompanied by traditional functionaries (like *Patimahapatra*, *Dadha karan*, *Deula karana*, *Padia karan*, *Maharana*, *Lenka*, *Rajguru* a group of above hundred people), along with present day temple administrators, police etc. proceed to identify suitable *Daru Brahma* (sacred *Neem* tree) under very strict customs for making of the new bodies. This gets initiated by the *Gajapati Maharaja* of Puri. After getting signal from *Maa Mangala* in *Kakatpur*, the *Daru Brahma* is identified. This is followed by several rituals like *Daru Brahma Pujanam*, *Daru Brahma Snamam* and *Ankura ropana* etc. These are then brought to the temple in a newly built hand driven cart in a ceremonial procession. The significant factor is the participation of local people, police team etc. in dragging these sacred carts. The holy procession is accompanied by groups of *kirtan* team, conch blowing team, *ghanta* (bell metal plate) beating team from among the volunteers of the neighbouring areas. The new idols are prepared in the restricted area of the temple i.e. *Koili Baikuntha*. These idols are wrapped with cloth on which different preservatives, scents,

medicinal oils, sandal paste, musk, camphor etc. are applied in a systematic manner signifying blood, veins, bone marrow etc. Painting of the Lord is done with indigenous colours by *Datta Mahapatras*. Pupils of the eyes, are painted by the Brahmin priest on the 1st day of *Shukla Paksha* i.e. on the bright half of regular *Ashadha*. This is otherwise known as *Navayauvana Darshana Day*. The *Nabakalebar* 2015, is to be held on the 17th July. The new embodiment of Lord is made ready for Darshan to its devotees. The Lords of *Shree Mandir* in a new *Kalebar* are made ready for *Ratha Yatra* on the next day, that is on the 18th July, 2015.

Karam Binti

The Survey organized an audio-visual documentation on '*Karam Binti - A Santal Festival*' at Santiniketan, District Birbhum, West Bengal. *Karam Binti*, narrates the creation myth of the Santal community and is performed in traditional theatrical form. Being an exclusive religious tradition of the Santals, it became an identity marker of the community. But over time, the tradition has gradually been fading away and it has almost become a dying phenomenon. In most part of West Bengal, these three days of religious performances used to take place in the local calendar month of *Shravan*, corresponding to July-August. On particular auspicious day and time, the rituals begin with planting of a *Karam* tree at any



Karam Binti - a Santal festival at Santiniketan

of their sacred places and ends with the immersion of the tree in pond or river. During these three days *Karam Binti* is performed. In this mythical presentation, they also narrate the relationship of nature and human being.

Crafts Society of India organized a three days long performance of *Karam Binti* at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Santiniketan, in a traditional way from 9th to 11th May 2015. A team of researchers from Anthropological Survey of India documented the entire staged performance under the Centre of Visual Anthropology for its archival importance.

Ethnographic Study of Shompen of Great Nicobar Island

Under the Regional Project '*An Ethnographic Study of Shompen*', a team of research personnel from Anthropological Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair has just had

completed 40 days of fieldwork among the Shompens of Great Nicobar Islands. The Shompen is one of the least known Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), residing in dense tropical rain forests of Great Nicobar Island of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The habitat of Shompen is also an important biological hotspot and it comes under two National Parks and one Biosphere Reserve namely Campbell Bay National Park, Galathea National Park and Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve. The Exact population of Shompen is unknown till today. They are semi-nomads and their main sources of livelihood are hunting-gathering and horticultural activities. The main objective of the study was to prepare the first authentic demographic data base of Shompen, along with individual photographs, to reveal different emic views of Shompen regarding their socio-cultural milieu, world view, attitudes towards developmental initiatives, health conditions, and reaction towards outside world and other different contemporary emergent issues and realities. None of the Shompen areas are connected by any kind of public transport. The only way to approach through land is by

trekking through dense tropical forests for a minimum distance of 10 km to 20 km or even more, or approaching through the sea by mechanized boat.

During their 40 days of intensive fieldwork the team visited different Shompen habitats, camp sites and settlements of the Great Nicobar Island and identified about eight different groups of Shompens, in terms of territorial occupancy, group dynamics, dialects and marital relationship. The groups are not static. Historically it is evident that there were fusion and fission in different groups. The present eight groups of Shompens are distributed at (1) Lawfull Bay and Jublee River basin (2) Chingen village and adjacent Galathea River basin, (3) Dogmer River basin (resettled in New Chingen), (4) Kokeon, (5) 24 km interior from the East West Road, (6) 27/28 km interior from the East West Road, (7) 35/37 km interior from the East West Road, (8) Alexandria river basin. Detailed demographic data along with photographs of more than 75 individuals and 20 families have been collected. Anthropometric data of more than 60 individuals were taken for nutritional assessment. It has also reported that, historically,



A happy family : with Shompen mother and children

there was a symbiotic and bartering relationship between different groups of Shompens and Nicobarese of west coast areas. Re-location of neighbouring Nicobarese at Campbell Bay (sub-divisional head-quarter) because of Tsunami in 2004 has left the Shompen isolated in the forest without bartering partner/neighbours. These post-Tsunami situations made the Shompens more dependent on Campbell Bay areas for bartering.

Study of Heritage in Sri Amritsar

Reconnoiter tour in the holy city of 'Sri Amritsar' in Punjab has been taken up by the North Western Regional Centre (NWRC) under the purview of the two national projects, 'Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana'(HRIDAY) of Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive'(PRASAD) of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

The city of Amritsar has a rich heritage, that is revealed through its 400 year old history, tradition, religion and Architecture. Etymologically, the name of the city is combination of two terms, 'Amrit' i.e. 'nectar' and 'sar' i.e. *sarovar* or tank. The combined meaning therefore is 'tank of nectar' or 'Amar Sarovar' which refers to the holy pool in midst of which the famous Sikh shrine 'Harmandir Sahib', popularly known as 'Golden Temple', is located. 'Amritsar' City was founded by Sri Guru Ramdass, the fourth Sikh Guru about 1574 A.D. To start the city, Guru Ramdas invited 52 traders from different sects belonging to the nearby places like Patti and Kasur to settle here. The fifth Guru Arjun Dev, after completing the writings of Holy Granth Sahib, ceremonially installed it in Harmandir Sahib. Baba Buddha Sahib was appointed the first granthi. After the last Guru Sri Guru Gobind Singh, a sikh from Nanded (Maharashtra) called Banda Bahadur came to Punjab and crushed defeats on Mughal forces leading to the rise of Sikh power and emergence of several 'Jathas' or 'bands' called Misl. Twelve important Misl of the Sikhs controlled Punjab from time to time. Maharaja Ranjeet Singh brought all the Misl under his control and took full control of Amritsar by 1802 A.D. The British took Amritsar in 1840 A.D. and Amritsar witnessed Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in 1919. During post-independence period, Amritsar flourished as a Sikh pilgrimage and commercial centre famous for tea and phulkari craft, etc. Now, tourism in Amritsar has started gaining importance primarily due to Golden Temple as well as due to the heritage of the city including its history, tradition, religion and architecture. This holy shrine of Sikhs- the 'Golden Temple' has been prelisted by India government among the list of 51 tentative sites that has been submitted to concerned Committee under UNESCO for its recognition, evaluation and acceptance as world heritage site.

Exhibition

In view of showcasing cultural-plurality of the nation, a few theme based exhibitions were organized during this quarter. Exhibition on 'People of India' was organized at Sikkim University, Gangtok



An Amritdhari female at Golden Temple, Amritsar

from 22nd to 26th April, 2015 and later at Senior Secondary School, Mangan, North Sikkim from 29th April to 3rd May, 2015. The exhibition at Gangtok was inaugurated by Prof. T.B. Subba, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University, Gangtok. The exhibition was well received and attended by the students of university, colleges, academicians and dignitaries. The exhibition at Mangan was inaugurated by Shri N.T. Lepcha, Upadhyaksha, Jila Panchayat, North Sikkim and it attracted huge crowd from Mangan, as well as from surrounding areas, especially the students and teachers. Shri Sonam Lepcha, Joint Director, HRDD, Sikkim, extended full support to make the exhibition a success.

Follow-up of the Vivekananda Memorial Programme for Museum Excellence (VMPME), Chicago, was initiated by the Zonal Anthropological Museum of the Anthropological Survey of India, Central Regional Centre, Nagpur through organizing an exhibition on "Material Culture of Central India: Unity in Diversity" to commemorate 'International Museum Day'. Two weeks long exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Piush Kumar, Director, South-Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur on 18th May, 2015. The exhibition was well received and attended by visitors including the students from schools and colleges. Popular science lectures drew many local students and academia.



Inaugural Ceremony of Exhibition on "Material Culture of Central India : Unity in Diversity"

The Survey participated and organized exhibition on 'Cultural Diversity in India' at Duria of Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal from 8th to 10th April, 2015. The exhibition was well received by the local people.

NEWS

Raj-bhasha

In view of application of Raj-bhasha in routine office work, *Timahi Karyashala* (quarterly workshop) ebaam *Timahi Baithak* (quarterly meeting) was organized at every regional establishment of this Survey with proper attention.

World Environment Day

World Environment Day was observed in a befitting manner at all Regional Centres of the survey on 5th June, 2015.

Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake organized a few guest lectures on various issues on "Human Society and Environment". Noted scholars like Prof. A.K. Roy, Rtd. Professor and Head of the Department, Asutosh College, Kolkata and Government nominated member of the advisory council of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College, Kolkata, Prof. Ranjana Roy, Professor Emeritus, Calcutta University and noted social worker and environmental activist Sri Suchandan Mridha of Satjelia, Sundarban and in-house scholars, Dr. Umesh Kumar, Human Ecologist and Sri Worrel Kumar Bain, Junior Research Fellow from Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata were the distinguished speakers on the occasion. The programme was chaired by Sri G.S. Rautela, Director of this Survey. Dr. Kakali Chakrabarty, Deputy Director and Head of Office, Eastern Regional Centre welcomed all the dignitaries, speakers and guests and it was concluded with a vote of thanks by Sri D.N. Pandey, Head of Office, Anthropological Survey of India.

Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair, observed the World Environment Day in a befitting manner on 5th June, 2015. Besides, the research personnel of the Centre (AnSI), over 60 students from different schools and colleges of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and other educational institutes participated on this occasion. Distinguished scientists viz. Dr. S. Dam Roy, Director, Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Scientist-B, Botanical Survey of India, Dr. Tamal Mondal, Zoological Survey of India and Dr. N. Francis Xavier, Principal, JNRM College delivered popular lectures on "Issues and Challenges of Island Environment". Dr. S. Dam Roy, graced the chair of the Guest of Honour. At the end, a brief discussion was organized.

The North-Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong organized a popular lecture on environment awareness. The lecture was delivered by Prof. B. S. Mipun, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.



Director, dignitaries and discussions : Observation of World Environment Day

International Museum Day

In view of creating mass-awareness about cultural diversity of the nation, International Museum Day was observed at various Zonal Anthropological Museum (ZAM) of the Survey on 18th May, 2015 through various peoples' participation activities like popular lecture, thematic sit and draw competition, quiz competition among students of local schools. This received positive response from the students and general public also. Western Regional Centre, organized a Drawing Workshop on 'Cultural Heritage Sites of Rajasthan' for fifty students belonging to Bhil tribal group from class 6 to class 10. In another programme, Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur organized a guest lecture on "Museums for a sustainable society" followed by drawing and quiz competition among the local school students.

International Day of Yoga

In an endeavour to promote healthy body and mind, International day of Yoga was observed in various ways on 21st June, 2015 at all Regional Centres of the Survey. All the staff members of Survey enthusiastically participated in the occasion and learnt various methods of stress management in day to day life.



Staff members in stress management session

Anthropological Survey of India, Head Office and Eastern Regional Centre jointly observed the Day in a befitting manner during the stipulated time in the morning hours on 21st June at its Salt Lake premise. All the staff members enthusiastically participated in the programme. Shri Pradyut Das of Prachin Yog & Physiotherapy Research Institute enlightened the participants about the usefulness of yogas in sedentary life-style with demonstration. Deliberation-cum-demonstration of various Ashanas and Pranayams continued in the subsequent days also. On 22nd June Ms. S. Chandra from Prajapati Brahmakumari, presented a deliberation along with demonstration on the meditation techniques at the hall of the AnSI, Head Office for three hours. On 24th June Smt. Soma Bhattacharyya of Art of Living International Centre, Kolkata, gave a demonstration on various ways of stress management at the hall as well as in the open garden area of the ERC, Salt lake premise.

Collaborative Programme

Six students of the Central University of Odisha visited the DNA-Laboratory of Head Office, Kolkata under Collaborative Scheme.

The Survey organized a meeting on 28th April, 2015 at its Head Office, Kolkata in connection with the visit of Dr. Aseem Bhatnagar, Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences, New Delhi, to discuss the scope of a collaborative project.

Two M.Sc. students of Department of Bio-technology, Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM) were provided training in the DNA-Laboratory at Head Office, Kolkata, under the supervision of Dr. B. N. Sarkar, Superintending Anthropologist (Physical).

Simultaneously one student of Amity Institute of Anthropology, Delhi, was provided training in the Palaeoanthropology Laboratory of Head Office, Kolkata, under the supervision of Dr. B. N. Sarkar, Superintending Anthropologist (Physical).

Manpower-training Programmes

Dr. Kanchan Mukhopadhyay, Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural) of this Survey proceeded on tour to RIWATCH Museum at Khinjili, Arunachal Pradesh, from 7th to 9th April, 2015, .

National/International Seminar/Workshop

This quarter was enriched with series of scholastic discussions and deliberations through several National Seminars/Workshops, which were organized by the Survey in collaboration with various organizations/institutes of national repute.

Shri Mukesh Sahay, Assistant Anthropologist (Cultural), CRC, Nagpur was deputed to participate in the National Seminar on 'PVTGs of Central India: Development Status, Challenges and Possibilities' organized by Barkatullah University, Bhopal during 29-30 May, 2015.

Dr. C.R. Sathyanarayanan, Deputy Director (Cultural) & Head of Office, Dr. B.R. Vijayendra, Assistant Anthropologist (Cultural), Dr. Nilanjan Khatua, Assistant Keeper and Dr. B.V. Ravi Prasad, Research Associate (Physical) of Southern Regional Centre, Mysore participated in the National Seminar on 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of South India' organized by Folkland, International Centre for Folklore and Culture, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya & Kannur University at Nileshwar, Kerala on 11th & 12th May, 2015.

Shri Arup Roy, Research Associate (Cultural) and Dr. Abhishikta Ghosh Roy, Senior Research Fellow were deputed to participate in the 45th Annual Conference of Indian Anthropological Society on 'Anthropology and Human Welfare', which was held during 23-25 May, 2015 at the University of Calcutta, Kolkata.

Research Personnel who represented Survey/GoI, in India/Abroad

One of the senior officers of this Survey attended the Inter-Ministerial meeting at the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi on 7th May 2015 in connection with the ensuing recovery mission at Arunachal Pradesh under the collaborative programme of the Joint Indo-US JPAC Mission.

One of the senior officers attended the meeting of the Board of Management of National Museum Institute held on 7th May, 2015 at New Delhi.

One senior officer attended the meeting held on 22nd May, 2015 in the office of the Department of Personnel & Training, North Block, New Delhi to discuss the amendment of Recruitment Rules of Group 'A' posts of the Survey.

One senior officer of this Survey attended the second Advisory Committee Meeting of Zoological Survey of India held on 10th June, 2015 at the headquarters of Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata. The same officer was nominated by the Director to attend the second review meeting held on 9th June, 2015, under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Culture at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Another senior officer of this Survey was nominated by the Director to attend the meeting of the Expert Advisory Committee for the scheme of Financial Assistance for Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of Himalayas for the year 2015-2016 held on 26th June, 2015, at Puratava Bhawan, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture.

Other

Dr. C.R. Sathyanarayanan, Deputy Director (Cultural) delivered a lecture on "Social-Cultural Anthropology" to the Post Graduate Students of Mandya Medical College at Mandya, Karnataka on 23rd May, 2015.

Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting of this Survey was held at its North-Western Regional Centre, Dehradun on 19th & 20th June, 2015.

Departmental Promotion

Dr. Krishna Mandal and Dr. Ratna Dhar have been promoted to the position of Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural), on the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee. Shri Shantanu Mitra and Dr. Bibhu Kalyan Mohanty have been promoted to the post of Anthropologist (Cultural) in this quarter.

Superannuation

During this quarter Shri Tamal Maity, Research Associate (Cultural), Smt. Dipti Nath, Office Superintendent, Shri Narayan Chandra Mazumdar, Upper Division Clerk, Shri Romasish Bhattacharya, Senior P.A., and Shri Hanuma, MTS have retired from active Government Service on reaching the age of superannuation.

Scholastic imprints

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Baruah, T., D.K. Adak and P. Bharati. 2015. Growth differentiation during pre-adolescence among the Garo and Rabha. pp. 255-274. In: *Human Growth: The Mirror of the Society*. Ed: M. Sikdar. B. R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi.

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Mohammed Salman, Shruti Dasgupta, A. Cholendra, P. N. Venugopal, G.L. Lakshmi, D. Xaviour, Jayashankar Rao, Cletus J.M. D'Souza. 2015. "MTNR1B gene polymorphisms and susceptibility to Type 2 Diabetes: A pilot study in South Indians". *Gene*. 566. pp.189-193.

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Front Cover : On hunting expedition : Shompen of Great Nicobar Island

Back Cover : 1. Enthusiastic female participation in the Health-awareness Camp, Bijapur
2. Participant in drawing competition on International Museum Day
3. Inauguration of exhibition "People of India" at Mangan by Shri N. T. Lepcha



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