



Anthropological Survey of India

# NEW LETTER

January-March, 2015







Inaugural Function of the Indigenous People's Festival: Parampara

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Readers,

With great sense of satisfaction, I would like to convey that the first quarter of 2015 had begun with conviction towards further understanding of the bio-cultural mosaic of the contemporary Indian society, as well as our antiquity, through multi-

dimensional anthropological exercises. We continued, together with our committed research programmes, along with various out-reach activities across the nation; the first quarter of 2015 has appeared to be quite meaningful.

Our scholars, who were engaged in the study "Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development", continued exploring life in arrays of villages, some located along the international borders. Meanwhile, our molecular-anthropology units have successfully completed laboratory investigations for

identification of Y-chromosome haplo-groups with respect to phylogenetic variations in as much as 74 tribal communities of India. First ever identification of a rare polymorphism, which is associated with Alzheimer's Disease and Down Syndrome, endorses our endeavour in understanding of genetic disposition of human diseases and disorders. Successively, two different kinds of palaeo/archaeo-anthropological studies i.e. "Paleo-anthropological study of Siwalik Hills" and "Anthropological Study of the Konark Sun Temple- a World Heritage Site" have led us to better understanding of the antecedents of human evolution, as well as antiquity of civilization.

During this quarter, we also have made several inroads into the tribal communities, with some effective capacity building and health-awareness programmes. We have also engaged the Indian academia through a series of national level seminars, and the general mass through exhibitions and outreach activities.

I do hope, like in last quarter, our efforts will continue towards better anthropological understanding of Indian population.

**G.S. Rautela**  
Director



# RESEARCH UPDATE

## Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development

Except the high altitude Himalayan localities, traditionally winter is the most congenial season for extensive anthropological surveys in the Indian sub-continent. Researchers of the Anthropological Survey have made use of that dry spell during this quarter and extensively harvested qualitative information from various remote villages/areas including some areas adjoining inter-national borders. Lingthem (Sikkim), Madagada (Andhra Pradesh), Rampura (Karnataka), Chetlat (Lakshadweep), Motai (Tripura), Hebbale (Karnataka), Sultanpur (Haryana), Santinagar & Gudrapara (Chhattisgarh), Champakad (Kerala), Persa (Bihar) were those villages/areas, where intensive studies were carried out during this period. Apart, report writing of the villages/areas like Gaon/Gunwadi (Maharashtra), Jaurasi (Madhya Pradesh), Sardi (Chhattisgarh), Kuatala/Pearson Pally (West Bengal), Kapileswar (Odisha) was in progress. Let's have a peep at some of the villages/areas.

### Radhvanaj (Gujarat)



*Intensified tobacco cultivation at Radhvanaj*

The village Radhvanaj comes under Matar Taluka, Kheda District of Gujarat. Earlier in 1955, this village was studied by Prof. A.M. Shah. It was fascinating to study the same village at two points of time removed from one another by more than fifty years. While obvious differences of the same village from two different time frames were found, there were presences of striking similarities too.

A comparative study of the ethnic composition of the village shows an increase in the caste groups in the village indicating immigration. There are also cases of emigration from the village during the course

of time. However some of the caste groups like Telapada Koli (Baraiya) and Rajput show a remarkable control on ancestral land and village polity till date. Initiations of several Government development projects, no doubt, have increased inter-group solidarity but social severance still seems to persist in the social structure of the village. Talapada Koli and Chamar, who are subjugated to the lower-rank in the caste hierarchy, are found to have included themselves in to the traditional Rajput clans. In agro-economy, tobacco is gradually emerging as a popular cash crop.

### Jambur (Gujarat)

Village Jambur is situated between river Saraswati and Karkari, at the fringe of the Gir forest, and is pre-dominantly inhabited by Siddi. Siddi is a Negroid ethnic group, who were brought to India as slaves, by the Arab and Portugese traders during 12th -15th century from Africa. Today, Siddi is one of the five Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups of Gujarat and mainly concentrated in



*Vehicle to town and vehicle for earning livelihood*

the Saurashtra region of the state. Siddi, who had habitually confined their economic pursuits within the village and hinterland of Gir forest are now exploring new avenues, apart from primarily getting involved in agricultural practices. Opportunities of menial work at Veraval port-town, mango processing factory in Madhupur, sea-cage shrimp culture in Veraval and opportunity to perform the traditional Dhamal dance across the globe have changed the life-style of Siddi. Simultaneously, the status of women has improved remarkably under the influence of effective Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for the women at Jambur.

### Jogbani (Indo-Nepal border area)

Jogbani is situated in Simanchal of Araria, Bihar in Indo-Nepal



International border. It has the dual characteristics of town and village, and is entirely inhabited by multi-ethnic migrant people. Ethnic scenario of Jogbani has changed with establishment of several jute mills at Rani (Nepal) during mid-20th Century. There had been a steady flow of people from Bihar and neighbouring states, as well as from Bangladesh, towards the jute industries of Rani, in search of better livelihood by means of wage labour, rickshaw pulling, running petty shops around the mills etc. Meanwhile, several government establishments have emerged with exponential population growth and Jogbani has transformed into a popular commercial hub. Currencies of both nations are acceptable for any transaction. Even for seeking school education and better health care, people of Jogbani frequently commute to Dharan (Nepal). The scenario became poor from 1980s, when jute industry of Rani collapsed for several reasons. Muslims and lower caste people have again initiated migration from Jogbani to different metropolis in India.

### DNA Polymorphism of Contemporary Indian Population

During this quarter, we have successfully identified a total of 2688 samples of Y-chromosomal haplogroup variation, and genetic architecture of 74 tribal populations of India. Out of these, 57.6% have identified under major haplogroup K, and 35.6% have identified as haplogroup F. These two major haplogroups are predominant, and primarily constitute the original Indian gene pool. While, 4.58% sample represents haplogroup C (C\* 7 C5), 2.4% belong to haplogroup D (D\*, D1a\* and D3\*).

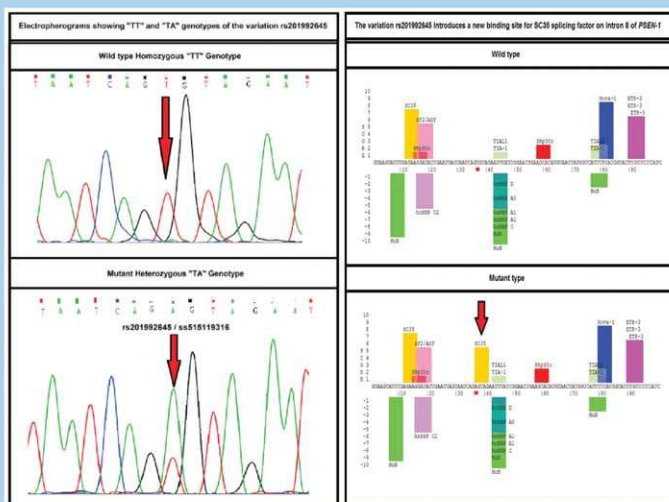
Besides, Mt-DNA sequence data and editing of Kattu Nayakan samples have been completed, which reveals that majority of them belong to Haplogroup M36d and M36d1; while only 7 samples have been identified in the Haplogroup C4a (C4a4a) and 1 sample represents Haplogroup M3a (M3a2a). Simultaneously, seven ALU insertion primers have been standardized to study "ALU insertion polymorphism existing among tribal population of Uttarakhand." Statistical analysis of Alu-polymorphism data and report writing is under process. Editing of sequence data of the tribal communities like Padhar, Koraga, Kutia Khond, Konda Reddy, Karen and Jaunsari have also been executed in the DNA-laboratories.

### Community Genetics and Health (Human Genetics Extension Programme)

The Survey organized a screening camp for identification of haemoglobinopathies at the Science Expo-2015 from 7th to 11th January, 2015. It was organized by the Raman Science Center & Planetarium, Nagpur. A total of 870 individuals were screened at that camp. Collected samples were analyzed through Capillary electrophoresis, and 78 individuals have been detected with various types of abnormal haemoglobin genes, like carrier of Hb-AS or

Beta-thalassemia (minor) or both. Purification of B-Ava product by PEG treatment and sequencing of B-Ava strands with PoP4 on detected variant samples were conducted.

Under the collaborative research programme of the Survey with other institutes, a rare polymorphism of *Presenilin-1* gene (rs201992645) within intron 8 has been identified for the first time. An in silico analysis also revealed that the variation is 'potentially damaging' at the transcript splicing level, which is associated with Alzheimer's disease and Down syndrome. This suggested that this variation is a potential marker for predisposition testing of both disorders. The study is based on 136 Down syndrome patients with their parents, 96 Alzheimer's disease Patients and 173 age-matched controls.



(Hereditary Genetics: Current Research 2014, 3:3;  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2161-1041.1000136>)

Screening of haemoglobinopathies of 300 blood samples of the Pnar Khasi of West Jaintia Hills Districts (Meghalaya) detected 12.67% of Hb-E and 16.66% of Hb-F. In continuation to the mass-awareness programme on haemoglobinopathies in India, a lecture on "Sickle Cell Anaemia: Issues & Challenges" was delivered by Dr. B.N. Sarkar in the training programme, that was organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, held at the Administrative Training Institute, Kolkata on 28.03.2015.

### Physical Growth and Development of Children in North East India-A Public Health Issue

During this quarter, altogether 118 tribal households were studied from five villages i.e. Nongspung-A, Nongspung-C, Behananodi, Tombekgre, Pillangkatta of Ri-Bhoi district (Meghalaya). Data on Anthropometric measurements were collected from 207 individuals (108 male and 99 female) below 21 years of age. Nutritional survey was carried out among 12 households.



# EVENTS

## Health awareness programme

To meet the objectives of the health awareness programme, a series of health awareness camps were organized at various tribal/urban areas in different parts of the country by the Regional Centres of the Survey.

During this quarter, a series of health check-up and health awareness camps were organized among the Nicobarese of remote islands viz. Great Nicobar Island (Southern group Nicobarese), Katchal Island (Central group Nicobarese) and Harminder Bay, Little Andaman (migrant Nicobarese of Car Nicobar Island) by the Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair. Preliminary analysis of 194 blood samples of the Southern Nicobarese of the Great Nicobar Island suggests that the load of abnormal haemoglobin is about 18 %. Out of these studied samples, 16% has been detected as Hb-E carrier, and one case each has been identified as Beta-Thalassaemia Carrier and Sick Cell Carrier.

The Survey organized a screening-cum-mass awareness camp at Sangha Adarsha Balika Vidyalaya, Howrah, West Bengal on 10.02.2015.

The North-East Regional Centre, Shillong, had organized a two days health awareness camp at Nartiang Village, West Jaintia Hill District of Meghalaya from 11th to 13th February, 2015. 510 tribal individuals had enthusiastically participated in that camp. Apart from common health check-up, blood pressure, blood sugar and nutritional health status of the participants were also thoroughly checked. Male individuals were found to be underweight than females, whereas females were found to be more obese than male counterparts. Haemoglobin level of the participants was reported impressive. Only 2.67% of them had low ( $< 9.0$  gm/dL) haemoglobin. Blood pressure and blood sugar revealed moderate value.

The North-Western Regional Centre, Dehra Dun, had organized screening-cum-health awareness camp for genetic disorder among Jad sub-groups of the Bhotias (ST) of Dehra Dun during 14th -15th February, 2015. Altogether, 254 Jad Bhotiya individuals were benefitted with health check-up and 188 blood samples were collected for molecular detection of congenital traits.

The Western Regional Centre organized a similar camp among the Siddi of Jambur village, under Gir Somnath District, Gujarat, during 24-28, February 2015. In the camp, 200 Siddi male as well as female had been screened for various morbidity patterns, hypertension, anaemia, malnutrition, ABO blood group, biochemical parameters like serum Glutamic pyruvic transaminase, Glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase, Alkaline phosphate, Creatinine, Triglyceride, High Density Lipoprotein, Low Density Lipoprotein, Uric Acid, Chloride, Urea, Cholesterol, Albumin and Protein.

## Capacity building

In view of empowering the tribal people through promotion and popularization of their own intangible cultural heritage, several initiatives had been taken by the Anthropological Survey. These initiatives were primarily aimed at in-situ recapitulation and reorientation of traditional wisdom of various forms of tribal art and aesthetics, following guru-shishya parampara and to make it popular among the non-tribals.

The Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake, had subsequently organized several such workshop-cum-training programme on the tribal culture and heritage among the tribes of West Bengal and Sikkim. There was a workshop-cum-training programme on "*traditional wall painting and relief works on walls on the eve of Sorhai (Bandhna) festivals among the Santals*" at Ramnagar, Birbhum (West Bengal). Sorhai (Bandhna) refers to the beginning of the Santali New Year, which is marked with music-dance, feast and colourful decoration of huts, with paintings of traditional motifs and relief works. One member from each family took part in that workshop. In view of introducing cultural heritage of the Sabar tribe to the rest of the society, later in January, this Regional Centre organized a "Sabar Festival" at Sarenga, Bankura (West Bengal).



*Workshop on manufacturing Talai from date palm leaves among the Sabar (Sarenga, Bankura)*

Simultaneously, enthusiastic participation of people in two other workshop-cum-training programmes, "*making of traditional musical instrument*" and "*traditional handloom weaving*" among the Lepchas at Lower and Upper Lingthem village of North Sikkim, during 12th January to 10th February, 2015 made our endeavour successful. The former was aimed to encourage the younger generation to revive their cultural tradition and the later was aimed to develop a subsidiary source of earning for women. A total of thirty male participants were trained in manufacturing of different types of traditional musical instruments like drums (*Tunder* and *Tunderbung*), flutes (*Nymbryok Pulit*, *Posong Pulit*, *Puntong pulit*) and string instruments (*Dapnem Tungdup* and *Sosang*) from locally available



bamboo (*poyong*) and wood (*sangtham*). Twenty five female participants were trained in weaving of Khola (male dress) and Tingit (carry bag) from “traditional handloom weaving” programme.

“traditional music and dance among the Santals” at Talpukur village, Birbhum (West Bengal) during 19th January- 8th February, 2015 by the Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake. One month long training



*Workshop on traditional weaving among Lepcha women, Sikkim*

Capacity building programmes got momentum with organization of a three weeks long workshop-cum-training programme on



*Making of traditional musical instrument : Lepcha, Sikkim*

programme-cum-workshop among the Sabar of Sarasbedia village, Bankura (West Bengal) on “traditional handicrafts from palm leaves like mat, broom etc. among the Sabar”, was organized by this Regional Centre during 20th of February to 19th of March, 2015. Altogether 35 Sabar individual were benefited from that programme. It has developed confidence among the women folk in sustainable use of local resources in income generation.

The Western Regional Centre, Udaipur also organized two sensitization programmes on “Tribal art and crafts of Rajasthan” among the Bhil of Kushalgarh, Banswara (Rajasthan) and later among the Saharia of Khelwada, Baran (Rajasthan).

Treasure of tribal art of the Chhattisgarh has been refurbished with daylong art-workshop at the Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur during 18th to 27th February 2015. Professor N.D.R. Chandra, Vice-Chancellor, Bastar University, inaugurated the workshop on “The Tribal Painting Tradition in Bastar”. Local tribal artists of Jagdalpur participated in this workshop with various forms of tribal art i.e.





*Art, Aesthetic and the Artist : Tribal participation in the workshop*

wall painting, canvas painting, jagar painting, godhna painting, Laxmi Jagar painting and wooden effigy etc.

## Documentation & Dissemination

### Parampara

A three day long Indigenous People's Festival: *Parampara* was organized by the Eastern Regional Centre, in collaboration with Sambhav- a non-governmental organization, Kolkata during March 2-4, 2015 at the Bharatiyam Cultural Complex of EZCC, Salt Lake, Kolkata. Dr. G. S. Rautela, Director-in-Charge, of this Survey presided over the inaugural session of the programme. Noted Santali puppeteer Shri Daman Murmu graced the chair of the Chief Guest and Smt. Alakananda Roy, famous dancer, choreographer and social worker graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. "Parampara" showcased the dance and musical performances of the tribal troupes



*Daman Murmu performing the Chadar Badar puppetry*

from Tripura, Assam and West Bengal, as well as some popular, but lesser known folk performing arts like "Jhumur" (folk song of Manbhum, Purulia) and "Alkap" (folk drama of Murshidabad). The Chief Guest presented a demonstration of traditional Santali puppetry "Chadar-Badar" which has been widely publicized in the media. Shri

Kuchil Mukherjee, noted scholar of folk-tradition delivered thoughtful lecture on "Jhumur" and later he stunned the audiences with his mesmerizing stage performance. Pandit Arun Bhaduri, noted vocalist and folk-tradition specialist, enlightened audiences with his thought provoking deliberation on *gharana* of "Alkap".

### Maramma Jatree- a Betta Kurumba tribal festival

The Southern Regional Centre, Mysore, organized a vivid visual documentation programme on the *Maramma Jatree*- an annual religious festival of the Betta Kurumba tribe of the Jaganakote village of Heggada Devana Kote taluk, Mysore. This festival signifies worshipping of the Betta Kurumba deity *Maramma* in the interior



*Maramma deity on procession in a palanquin*

forest, which is usually patronized by a local religious committee of Hindu castes such as, Lingayat, Visvakarma and Adi Karnataka. The *Maramma Jatree* begins with offering worship to *Belluramma*, the principal deity of the *Bargler moge* (a clan of the Betta Kuruba). Fire walking (*Kundam*) is the major attraction of *Maramma Jatree*, which was participated by the devotees of Betta Kurumba and neighbouring Jenu Kuruba tribe of that area.

### Palaeo-anthropological expedition in Siwalik Hills

A team of researchers from the palaeo-anthropology section of the Survey had conducted extensive fieldwork in the Siwalik Hills of Northwest India in the month of February 2015, covering a wide area from Nurpur Kangra to Bilaspur of the Middle Siwaliks, and



*Fossil and Tool from Siwalik Hills expedition*



Kala Amb and Toka, etc. of the Upper Siwaliks. Some fossil remains of the fauna in the Late Miocene swamps to forest woodlands, and grasslands were discovered. The area is famous for hominoid antecedents of the Pleistocene man. The team also identified new palaeolithic sites in the tributaries of the River Satluj, which would reveal prehistoric migrations of the Acheulian man to the area predominated by the Soan prehistoric man. Further research is contemplated to reveal many secrets of human evolution.

### Nabakalebara Ceremony

The Survey has undertaken a work for Audio-Visual Documentation of "Nabakalebara Ceremony of Sri Jagannath -2015 at Puri, Odisha".

### Konark and the Sun Temple

A study on the Sun Temple of Konark- a World Heritage site declared by UNESCO has been taken up by the Survey. The Temple is situated in a temple complex that consists of the main Sun Temple, Chhayadevi Temple, brick structure and many other subsidiary structures like the gateways, wells, kitchen and enclosure walls. Architecture of the main temple is *pancha-ratha-dekha deul*, as each of its facade are segmented by five projections to produce an effect of light and shade on the surface and also to create an impression of one continuous vertical line (*Rekha*), and conceived as a huge and colossal chariot drawn by seven horses on twelve pairs of stone wheels in south and north direction. Each wheel is a sun clock that



*The Sun Temple of Konark - A World Heritage site*

precisely indicates the time, in a day, from sun rise to sun set. Twelve wheels denote twelve months as well as constellation of celestial bodies in respective months, which serves as an almanac for voyagers in those days. Thousands of magnificent sculptures on the Sun Temple are metaphoric to socio-cultural doctrine of ancient Konark. Monolithic huge sculptures of lion on elephant refer reinforcement of Hinduism over Buddhism through *tantric* movements in the society. Images of deities like Sun, Siva, Mahishauramardini, Barah



*Gracious presence of Shri G.S. Rautela, Director In-charge, Anthropological Survey of India and Shri S. A. Awaradi, Director, Andaman & Nicobar Tribal Research Institute in the Pictorial Exhibition "Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands - Yesteryears and Today"*



avater, Ganesa, Krishna, Ganga, Yumuna, Kamala etc. substantiate simultaneous existence of *Shakta*, *Shaiva* and *Vaishnava* sects in the society. Konark is indeed a testimony of antiquity adopted and developed through many layers civilization.

### Ethnographic study of the Shompen

A team of anthropologists of the A & N Regional Centre had initiated ethnographic study of the Shompen of the Great Nicobar Islands in March 2015.

### Exhibition

Several exhibitions had been organized by the Survey in several parts of the country to showcase the bio-cultural diversity of India. Some of those were:

The Anthropological Survey of India participated in the 102nd Indian Science Congress "*Pride of India Expo -ISC 2015*" during the period 3rd to 7th January 2015 at Mumbai University, Mumbai and mounted the exhibition on "People of India". The exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi. More than 15,000 visitors including students of 32 schools in Mumbai visited this exhibition.

The Central Regional Centre, Nagpur participated in the 4th Science Expo - 2015, which was organized by the Raman Science Centre & Planetarium, Nagpur from 7th to 11th January, 2015. An exhibition on "Emergence of Man" was put up by the Survey. The 5 day event was conceptualized to bridge the gap between the science and society by bringing the institutes of repute, in and around Nagpur, to showcase their research activities and contributions to society. The exhibition was well received and attended by more than 35,000 visitors.

Anthropological Survey has also organized an exhibition on the "People of India" in the 12th Indian Anthropology Congress 2015, in Bhubaneswar in February.

A photographic exhibition on "Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands - Yesteryears and Today" was organized by the A&N Regional Centre, Port Blair, to showcase the continuity and change of the tribal world of these islands at its Zonal Anthropological Museum.

## NEWS

### RAJBHASHA

In addition to organizing mandatory *Timahi Baithak aur Timahi Karyashala* at the Regional Centres and Head Quarter, the Western Regional Centre, Udaipur organized National Level Official Language Workshop and Seminar, "*Samakaleen Bharat ki Gaon: Vikash aur Paribartan*" on 18-19 February, 2015. Representative of 60 Central Government Organizations and PSUs participated in the workshop. Altogether 30 scholars participated and presented papers in the seminar. The Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake organized a one day Sangasthi "*Sarkari Karya main Sahaj ebam Saral Hindi ka Upyog*" on 30th March 2015.

### Guest Lecture / Seminar

Survey organised a special lecture on 'Transforming Anthropological Museum' delivered by Prof. Amareswar Galla, Executive Director, International Institute of the Inclusive Museum, on 17th February, 2015 at its Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake, Kolkata.



Interactive session with Prof. Amreshwar Galla

### Manpower-training Programmes

The Survey deputed its two research fellows to attend the workshop of Indian Museum, held at Shillong, from 19th to 23rd February, 2015, on museum related matters.

The Survey deputed Shri S. Shit for attending a 5-day long Management Development Programme in Museum Marketing at Central Research & Training Laboratory (NCSM), Kolkata, from 23rd to 27th February, 2015.

Dr. S. K. Patel of this Survey participated in the seminar and workshop on 'Bioinformatics Tools with Reference to Targeted Gene Sequencing and Analysis' held at Regional Medical Research Centre, Dollygunj, Port Blair from 26th to 27th March, 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.

A five-day long "Induction Course" was organized by from 12th - 16th January, 2015 at the ERC, Kolkata. Research Fellows from all Regional Centres and Head Office participated in this programme.

To address the problem and prospects of continuing cultural heritage of lesser known communities in ever changing societal perspectives in India, a three day workshop on "Community Level Cultural Resource Centres" was organized in the campus of Sanskriti, Guwahati from 18th to 21st February, 2015. Participants from North Eastern states addressed the issue enthusiastically.

A two-day long National Seminar on "*Harappan Civilization: Conservation. Inventorization, Study and Research of the Skeletal Remains*" had been organized on 26th and 27th February 2015 in Kolkata





*Shri G. S. Rautela, Prof. V. S. Shinde and Dr. B. R. Mani in an Academic Session*

jointly by the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The primary goal of this seminar was to provide a common platform to explore the origin, migration, culture traits, ethnic background, osteo-biology, palaeo-anthropology and palaeo-pathology of the Harappan people, based on the study and research of Harappan skeletal remains. The seminar was attended by many distinguished scholars in the field.

Anthropological Survey of India has organized a special academic session on 'Predicaments of Tribal Communities in Contemporary India' on 22nd and 23rd February 2015 during 12th Indian Anthropology Congress 2015, in Bhubaneswar, to discuss issues related to the Tribal Communities of the country, their problems and prospects in contemporary times.

Dr. R. Gowloog and Dr. G. K. Bera of this Survey were nominated to participate in the National Seminar on 'Gender Implication of Tribal Customary Law', held on 27th & 28th February, 2015, organized by the North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati, Assam.

Dr. Umesh Kumar and Dr. S. Mukherjee of this Survey were nominated to participate in the National Seminar on 'Images of Geography' organized by the Foundation of Practicing Geographers, Kolkata on 6th & 7th February, 2015 at the S.N. Bose Institute of Basic Research, Kolkata.

Dr. K. Ravi and Shri T. Maity of this Survey were nominated to participate in the National Seminar on 'Status of Tribal Women in

Central India: Issues and Challenges organized by the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. N. K. Duary of this Survey participated in the National Seminar on 'New Paradigms in Anthropological Research' organized by the Dept. of Anthropology, North Bengal University, Darjeeling on 19th & 20th March, 2015.

Dr. Umesh Kumar, Shri A.J. Biswas and Dr. A.R. Sankhayan and four research fellows of this Survey participated in the National Seminar on 'Anthropological Research in India : Tradition and Transition' held on 10th & 11th March, 2015, organized by the Dept. of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Shri Indranil Biswas of this Survey participated in National Seminar on 'Fieldwork and the Legacy of T.C. Das' organized by the Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, W. B. on 11th & 12th March, 2015.

The Survey organized a workshop on five on-going research projects from 23rd to 27th March, 2015 at its Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake, Kolkata, for reviewing the status of the said projects and for taking further necessary action in respect of completion of the projects.

### **Representation of Survey / GoI, in India / Abroad**

As representative from Survey one senior officer participated in the meeting of Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi in connection



with the preparation of policies for various PTGs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 8th January, 2015, and also attended a meeting of Andaman & Nicobar Administration on 12th January 2015 for discussion of various issues pertaining to PTGs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

One senior officer represented Survey in the meeting of Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Culture) held at Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi on 23rd February 2015.

One senior officer of this Survey attended a meeting convened by the Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) held on 6th February, 2015, at the Secretariat of Govt. of Assam, Guwahati, Assam, in connection with the visit of NCST to the State of Assam, to assess the status of 'Karbi' community of Assam, for inclusion in the ST list of Assam.

One senior officer represented Survey in the meeting of 'Expert Committee for preparation of policies for various PTGs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands' held in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi on 11th March, 2015, to finalize the Policy for Shompen.

One senior officer of this Survey attended a meeting of the Coordination Committee held in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi on 19th March, 2015 to monitor, plan and assess progress of the schemes/programmes being implemented for overall development of Scheduled Tribes.

One senior officer of this Survey attended a meeting of the Finance Committee of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, held on 23rd March, 2015, at the National Museum Institute, New Delhi. One senior officer attended another meeting of the Board of Management of the above organization held on 30th March, 2015 at New Delhi.

## Other



On 20th February, 2015, Dr. J. S. Jaya Sankar Rao, Anthropologist (P) from Anthropological Survey of India, Southern Regional Centre, Mysore, had received the Presidential Census Silver Medal and Certificate of Honour, in recognition of his outstanding performance during Census-2011 as Assistant Director of Census Operations (Technical) on deputation at the Directorate of

Census Operations, Tamil Nadu.

Under the 'An.S.I.-IGNOU Work Centre' tie-up, the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore, had conducted counselling, theory and practical sessions for the students of M.A. in Anthropology course of the IGNOU at Mysore.

Dr. C.R. Satyanarayanan and Dr. R. Shenkuttuvan of this Survey have taken up a job of supervising the studies undertaken by CIIL,

Mysore on 'Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of two tribal communities, namely Malai Malasar & Muduvan' as requested by the CIIL, Mysore.

Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting of this Survey was held at its Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata on 24th & 25th February, 2015.

## Departmental Promotion

Dr. Kakali Chakrabarty has been promoted to the position of Deputy Director (Cultural), on the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee. Shri S. S. Barik and Dr. J. S. J. S. Rao have been promoted to the post of Anthropologist (Physical) in March, 2015.

## Superannuation

Shri Kattoju Ravi, Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural), Dr. Shaik Abdul Azeez Saheb, Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural), Shri Rajkishore Ram, MTS and Shri Rajeshwar Prasad, MTS have retired from active Government Service on reaching the age of superannuation.

## Scholastic imprints

Bera, G. K. 2015. *Indigenous Resource Management in North East India*. (with K. Jose). New Delhi: Omsons Publications.

Bera, G. K. 2015. "Religious Perception and Practices among the Rangdani Rabha of Assam: Cognition vis-à-vis Empirical Reality" (jointly with K. Jose). *Anthropos India*, 1(2): 144 – 166.

Bera, G. K. 2015. "Remembering the Remembered Villages: Rampura and Wangla". *Anthropos India*, 1(2): 317 – 326.

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*2. "People of India" exhibition during "Pride of India Expo -ISC 2015"*

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