



Anthropological Survey of India

# NEW LETTER

July - September, 2013







*Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi and Chairman of the National Advisory Committee of the Anthropological Survey of India presiding over the meeting of the Committee on 30th September*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



*I am privileged to report to you, that we could hold more Health Awareness Camps this quarter than we could foresee, in the most interior and isolated tribal villages in all four corners of the country. In the coming*

*months too we plan more such camps, adopting more inclusive approach.*

*The National Advisory Committee meeting chaired by Secretary (Culture) was held to get a nod to our plan of action ahead and to report the activities since the last meeting in November, 2012.*

*Our Executive Committee met twice this quarter to review the progress of work related to projects being implemented*

*and discussed the plan of action ahead in the coming quarters.*

*Anthropological Survey of India at its Central Regional Centre, Nagpur organized a National Seminar on Biosphere Reserves and their human dimensions in the country and deliberated on its work in that sphere, with inside and outside scholars. We plan more such seminars in the coming quarters and continue to provide collaborative assistance, wherever such efforts are made.*

*The major project of the 12th Five Year Plan, 'Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development' has almost been completed in the first year, except for a few gaps which will be taken care of in the next two-three months. We plan to start our field operations for the second year soon after.*

*I wish you all the best for 2014 and promise more exciting and socially useful activities in future as well.*

**G.S. Rautela**  
Director



# RESEARCH UPDATE

## Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development

On the basis of data collected through fieldwork, after writing of reports, their scrutiny and submission, all research personnel engaged in the twelfth Five Year Plan Project of the An.S.I., 'Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development' participated in the work-shop and presented the reports to the invited experts and others from 16th to 22nd September at the Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata.

## DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian Populations

Massive sequencing work related to mt DNA and Y chromosome phylogeny has been taken up in the DNA laboratories of Southern Regional Center, Mysore and Head Office, Kolkata since August this year.

So far, Y SNP work for 70 communities has almost been completed while the mtDNA work for 24 primer sets has been completed for nine communities. In addition, work related to eight communities has been taken up at both places.

## Preliminary results from Patalkot & Bade-Kilepal Health Camps

The Health camp organized in the Ghatlinga village of Tamia Block targeting five-six villages, concentrated by the Particularly Vulnerable Tribe, Bharia of Madhya Pradesh reports that 400 blood samples were taken and processed by capillary electrophoresis. Preliminary results indicate that 11% are Sick Cell carriers while 11 samples show high levels of HbA2 beyond 3.8%, in about 6 samples HbD like variants were observed which need to be confirmed and in about 5 samples minor peaks (about 1% of Total Hb) beyond A2 zone were noticed which needs to be examined through molecular analysis, as to whether they are novel variants or reported variants of A2. Extraction of DNA is about to be completed for further analysis.

Altogether 584 individuals (male 307 and female 277) were measured for the assessment of nutritional status in three hamlets of Bade-Kilepal village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh; more than 300 adult individuals were examined for their blood sugar and blood pressure levels. Besides,

blood samples were collected from 225 boys & girls in the pre-marriage age groups from Bison Horn Maria for screening Sick Cell anemia and other Haemoglobinopathies. Preliminary analysis indicates that about 20% were having Sick Cell Trait followed by 2.23%  $\beta$ -Thalassaemia carriers. Three individuals were identified as Sick Cell disease in the prospective screening and about 17% were estimated as Hyperglycemic (blood sugar > 140 mg/dL).

## Bio-Cultural Adaptation

So far 47 Diabetes cases and as many controls of Gangadikara Vokkaliga have been taken up for genotyping of which 29 primers through RT PCR and sequencing of 12 by ABI 3730 sequencer.

## SNPs' of RENIN gene

Three novel SNPs in the promoter region of RENIN gene have been identified in a population of Eastern India and submitted to the Human Genome Database (Gene Bank).



Experts deliberating on village studies during the Workshop on Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development



## From Laboratory to the People

For creating health awareness, especially among the tribal communities of the country, Anthropological Survey of India has taken up a major initiative to organise 'Health Awareness Camps'. In the series, under the Tribal Sub-Plan, camps were organised in tribal villages all across the country. During the camps, free Health check-up in the far-flung tribal villages by qualified medical professionals, free medicines for common ailments and advice on follow-up treatment for ailments and chronic diseases which require long-term treatment schedule are arranged. In addition, data on screening for genetic disorders

like  $\beta$ -Thalassaemia, Sickle-Cell Anaemia, G6PD deficiency etc. free blood sugar check-up, BMI estimation data was collected for further analysis. Irular from Attappady block of Palakkad district of Kerala, Sahariya of Rajasthan; in three hamlets of Bade-Kilepal, Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, among Tharu of Udhampur district and Bhoksa of Dehradun district, Uttarakhand, from Pepbah village of Shillong, Bharia of Tamia block, Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh were chosen for holding Health Awareness Camps during the current quarter.



*Irular community people were medically examined in the Attappady Medical Camp*



*Inauguration programme for the Health Awareness Camp and World Indigenous People's Day, Paatalok*



*Health Awareness Camp among Tharu*



*Taking blood samples in Bade Kilepal area of Bastar*



*Taking body measurements in Pepbah of Shillong*



*Health Awareness Camp among Sahariya*



*Health Awareness Camp among Bhoksa*



*Long queues of people in a Bade-Kilepal hamlet*



# EVENTS



*Prof. K.K.Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India till the fore-noon of July, 31 rejoined his professorship in the Department of Anthropology, Central University, Hyderabad*

completed work and to plan the course of action ahead.

## Visual Anthropology

Anthropological Survey of India produced film 'Vanishing Colours and Shrinking Threads' was screened in the '10th Jeevika: Asia Livelihood Documentary Festival' organized by the Centre for Civil Society at the Habitat Centre, New Delhi from 29th August to 1st September.

## National Advisory Committee

The An.S.I. organised its National Advisory Committee meeting on 30th September at its Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata under the chairmanship of Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi. Members who attended the meeting are Professors I. J. S. Bansal, Indira Barua,

## IGC Retreat

Prof. K. K. Misra, Director of the An.S.I. participated in IGC Retreat on Intellectual Property related to Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (GRTKF) held in Bangkok, Thailand on 6th & 7th July.

## Orientation Course

Anthropological Survey of India has organised a orientation course 'Hands on Training in Laboratory Procedures and Techniques' under the 'International School of Anthropology' at its Southern Regional Centre, Mysore from 22nd to 31st July. Near about 40 research personnel from all Regional & Sub-Regional Centre/s of the Survey and some dignitaries attended the programme.

## Physical Anthropology: Review Committee

A Review Committee meeting of the Physical Anthropology Division was organized in the An.S.I.'s Southern



*Shri G.S.Rautela, Director General, National Council of Science Museums took up the additional charge of the Director, Anthropological Survey of India, in the afternoon of July 31*

Regional Centre, Mysore on 8th & 9th July. Most of the scientific officers of the Physical Anthropology of the Survey participated for discussion about the

D. K. Bhattacharya, K. K. Misra, K. Sarat Chandra Singh, Rajat Kanti Das, Pradipta Kishore Das, C. G. Hussain Khan, Indu Talwar, and Dr. Punam Srivastava to



confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the NAC meeting and to consider the follow-up action taken on the minutes of its previous meeting.

### Executive Committee

The An.S.I. arranged its Executive Committee meeting on 11th & 12th July at its Central Regional Centre, Nagpur to discuss the progress of plan projects, expenditure incurred and review of the 12th Five Year Plan programmes.

The Central Regional Centre has also organised a cultural programme 'Celebration of Dance and Music of Central Indian Tribes' on 11th & 12th July in Nagpur, along with the Executive Committee meeting.

For the third quarter of the current year, another Executive Committee meeting was organised on 2nd September, at the Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata for discussion on targets achieved till August

and month wise action/activities and proposals to be taken up from September, 2013 to March, 2014 to achieve the proposed targets.

### World Indigenous People's Day

Anthropological Survey of India Head Office and all its Regional & Sub-Regional Centre/s observed the occasion by holding Exhibitions, Tribal Cultural Festivals, Seminars etc. from 8th August for 2-3 days.

### Crafts and Craftsmanship

Sub-Regional Centre of the Anthropological Survey of India, Jagdalpur organised a workshop on 'Crafts and Craftsmanship' from 23rd August to 6th September.

### Documentation and Dissemination

Anthropological Survey of India setup anthropological galleries/exhibition in the State Museum at Ujjayanta Palace,

Agartala, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-President Shri M. Hamid Ansari.

Mon village of Nagaland was visited to organize documentation of tribal culture.

### Workshop-cum-Training programme on Performing Arts of Santals

Eastern Regional Centre of Anthropological Survey of India organized a 20 day Workshop-cum-Training programme on Performing Arts of Santals at Dwaronda village, Birbhum District, West Bengal, from 24th August to 12th September with an aim to preserve the culture and traditions of Santals by training them in their traditional forms of performing arts like drama, dance, music and song which are slowly vanishing out.

The programme housed at Birbhum Blossom Theatre campus, Dwaronda was inaugurated by Prof. Tapati Mukherjee,



*Faculty and participants of the Orientation Course on Laboratory procedures and techniques, International School of Anthropology, SRC, Mysore*



acting Vice Chancellor, Viswa Bharati University and was chaired by Shri G. S. Rautela, Director, Anthropological Survey of India. About 25 participants from Dwaronda and neighbouring villages were trained during the workshop by Santal gurus along with Sri Partha Gupta, a research scholar of Santal performing arts.

### Training Programme cum Workshop on Terracotta Art of the Santals

Anthropological Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre organized a Training Programme-cum-Workshop on Terracotta Art of the Santals at Dwaronda village, Birbhum, for six days from 2nd - 7th October.

### National Seminar

Central Regional Centre of Anthropological Survey of India organised a national seminar 'Biosphere Reserve National Parks and Protected Area Management - Human Dimension: Issues and Challenges' in Nagpur on 26th & 27th September. The seminar was attended by all the involved research personnel and also participated by outside scholars. The theme of the seminar and the issues that came up were deliberated at length.

### 17th IUAES, UK

Dr. Dipak Kumar Adak attended the 17th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences "Evolving Humanity and Emerging Worlds".

Dr. Adak's participation was sponsored by the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi (No. 3/2/TG-42/HRD-2013(1), dated 11.07.2013).

### Hindi Pakhwara

The Head Office and Regional/Sub-Regional Centre/s organised 'Hindi Pakhwara' from 13th to 23rd September.

### Superannuation

On reaching the age of superannuation,

Shri K.N. Chandrakanth and Sushanta Dhar, Junior Administrative Officer (J.A.O.) (31st July), Dr. Mrinmayi Bannerjee, Senior Psychologist (31st August), Dr. Nakul Chandra Sarkar, Superintending Anthropologist (Physical), Smt. P. S. Radhamony, J.A.O., Shri Nandlal Dangi and Shri Paresh Chandra Dey, Multi Tasking Staff (30th September) have

retired from active Government service on the dates mentioned in the parentheses.

### Repatriation

Shri Ajay Chowdhury was repatriated from the Bureau of Police Research & Development, Ministry of Home Affairs to join the Western Regional Centre as the Junior Hindi Translator.



Shri Vibhuti Narayan Roy, Vice Chancellor inaugurated the An.S.I. curated exhibition Human Origin, Evolution and Bio-Cultural Diversity for display in the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha during 5th to 7th September



Santal women dancing during the Training Programme



Prof. Tapati Mukherjee, acting Vice Chancellor, Viswa Bharati University inaugurated the Training Programme-cum-Workshop on the performing Arts of the Santals



Independence Day, 2013



Head Office & Eastern Regional Centre

Front Cover:

A Dhemsa dance performance from Koraput district, Odisha during the World Indigenous People's Day on 8th August. Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata

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North West Regional Centre



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