



Anthropological Survey of India

NEW LETTER

April – June, 2012





Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, appraising Mrs. Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India about the activities of the Anthropological Survey of India on her visit to the Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata on 26th April, 2012

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I am delighted to present the 'Newsletter' of the Anthropological Survey of India for the quarter, April to June, 2012, showcasing some of the important events during the quarter to our esteemed readers and well-wishers. While bidding farewell to the 11th Five Year Plan, we reviewed and introspected our achievements during the Plan and braced ourselves for the 12th Five Year Plan. In April, 2012, we set out to prepare a development index among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India, which are considered to be deeply deprived among the already marginalized tribal groups. Our researchers fanned out to remote pockets of tribal regions all across the country for collecting information and presented their findings in a National Workshop. We are now in the process of analyzing the data and inching towards finalizing the report on PVTGs of India. As a part of our 12th Plan National Project, "Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development", scholars of the Survey visited Khamti inhabited villages in Arunachal Pradesh to study and document the dynamics of tribal culture in this region. Our other projects, viz.

DNA Polymorphism, Man and Environment, Growth and Development in Northeast India, Social Impact Assessment Studies, Visual Anthropology, etc. achieved their respective targets during this quarter. Special mention can be made about our Sub-Regional Centre at Jagdalpur, which conducted a Symposium on "Tribal Art and Culture" and organized an exhibition, "Tribe: Development and Impact". It is further gratifying that a delegation from Kathmandu, Nepal, visited Anthropological Survey of India to seek its technical support and guidance in studying social inclusion and related issues in Nepal. On the whole, we had a very productive quarter due to the untiring efforts of our scholars and officials. I look forward to receiving your valuable suggestions and good wishes for carrying our tasks forward in future.



*Professor Kamal K. Misra
Director*

RESEARCH UPDATE

"Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development"

Anthropological Survey of India launched a Nationwide project "Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development" aimed at to initiate village studies to document the dynamics of change in the contemporary village India, from the time they were earlier studied in the 1950s and 60s. The plan is to study atleast one or two villages from each of the Eco-Cultural Zones of the country.

As a case of pilot initiative, a multidisciplinary team of researchers undertook a month-long field trip to Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh for a study of Tai Khamti villages, and the draft report examined by the Director, is under modification.

Pursuant to the pilot study, four more teams were formed to study five villages namely, Ramkheri (Madhya Pradesh), Kishan Garhi (Uttar Pradesh), Wangla and Delana (Karnataka) and Sahejpur (West Bengal). The purpose of the study is to pre-test the finalized instruments.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

A nationwide programme was undertaken by the An.S.I., as part of its twelfth Plan Research Projects, for a study of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). A large number of researchers from Head Office, Regional Centres / Sub-Regional Centre and Field Stations have conducted fieldwork among all the 75 PVTGs across the country. The larger aim of the undertaking is to collect grass-root level information on aspects like health,



Traditional house of Tai Khamti, Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh

nutrition, and education etc. of the PVTGs to understand the level of Human Development and to collate the data at the all India level.

Visual Anthropology

Video-documentation of the marriage ceremony of the Mullu Kurumba settlement, called Thayyakunni in Pandalur taluka of Nilgiri district, Tamil Nadu, was completed.

"Dastana putul nach" (glove puppet dance), popularly known as "Beni putul nach", performed on the courtyards of houses or in local markets / fairs of coastal villages of Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal, has been audio-visually documented.

Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur undertook documentation work for the zonal Anthropological Museum (ZAM) in some areas of Bastar and Odisha.

Audio-visual documentation of *Jatra Puja* was done in the Madhota village of Bastar district, Chattisgarh.

Man & Environment

A team of researchers from the Central Regional Centre has conducted

fieldwork in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, Kerala.

Social Impact Assessment

Fieldwork in different areas of West Bengal, Odisha & Uttarakhand was completed and the reports were finalized as well as submitted.

DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian Populations

Three teams of researchers from the Head Office, Kolkata, Western Regional Center, Udaipur and North East Regional Centre, Shillong completed field work to collect data and blood samples from the Mullu Kurumba, Irula and Kattunaickan (Tamil Nadu), Damor (Rajasthan) and Mara (Mizoram). Analysis is underway.

Growth and Development of Children in North East India

All Research Fellows and some officials were on a sixty day field tour to collect anthropometric measurements and



"Dastana putul nach"

data from among the Garo of the West Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya. As the finalization of the report is underway on a dataset of about 10,000 Angami Naga children, a part of it was used for the submission of a Ph. D. thesis "Growth and Nutritional Status of Children of Southern Angami Naga of Kohima District of Nagaland" to the Berhampur University.

Outcome

During the quarter of April-June, twenty reports were received on different projects, including the 'Social Impact Assessment'.

INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY



The Indian Anthropological Society, Kolkata, in its Annual General Body Meeting on 30th June 2012 felicitated the Anthropological Survey of India in recognition of its close collaboration with the Society on many academic and professional events for the past several years. Professor Kamal K. Misra, Director of Anthropological Survey of India and IGRMS received the memento on behalf of the Survey, presented by Professor Ajit K. Danda, President of IAS in the presence of the members of the IAS. Professor Misra also released three recent publications of the Indian Anthropological Society, *The Plural Nature of Anthropology*, *Alternative Voices in Anthropology* and *The Science of Man* on the occasion.

EVENTS

Visit from Nepal

A team of eight officials from the Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal visited Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata on 1st & 2nd April for a detailed discussion on Social Inclusion Research, Capacity Building for Quality Research and Creation of a National Institution / Social Science Research Council and its institutional Development. Officials from the An.S.I. actively participated in discussions with the delegates from Nepal and the meet was chaired by Prof. K.K. Misra, Director of the An.S.I.

Review of Cultural Anthropology Division and Finalization of 12th Plan Projects

Anthropological Survey of India

organised a Review Committee Meeting of the Cultural Anthropology Division on 16th & 17th April at its Eastern Regional Center, Kolkata. A workshop was also organised to finalize the twelfth Five Year Plan project proposal "Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development". The larger aim of the project is to reflect ground realities of development initiatives on the people of India in their, own perspective, socio-cultural life and livelihood practices.

Workshop on Pretesting of the Module of Social Impact Assessment

A workshop was organized on 'Pre-testing of the Module of Social Impact Assessment and Anthropological Study of the Emerging Issues Related to Development' at Kolkata on 15th & 16th

May. The workshop was attended by six external experts. Reports on Lalgah in West Medinipur, Rajarhat in New Town, Nandigram in Purba Medinipur, Singur in Hooghly (West Bengal), Posco Steel Project and Mining in Jagatsinghpur and Sundargarh districts, Vedanta Project in Kalahandi district (Odisha) and Bara and Karchhana Thermal Power Project at Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh) were presented.

Tribal Art and Culture

Zonal Anthropological Museum, Sub-Regional Center, An.S.I., Jagdalpur has organized a Symposium on "Tribal Art and Culture" (Youth Dormitory and Memorial Pillar) on 08th and 09th May at its office premises. The symposium inaugurated by Prof. (Smt.) Jaylaxmi Thakur, Vice Chancellor, Bastar Vishwa Vidyalaya, was participated by experts



Director, Prof. K. K. Misra along with delegates from Nepal and some staff members of the Anthropological Survey of India

of repute including the scientific personnel from the Survey.

Tribe: Development and Impact

An exhibition "Tribe: Development and Impact" was organized at the Zonal Anthropological Museum, Sub-Regional Center, An.S.I., Jagdalpur from 08th to 11th May.

Workshop on Particularly Vulnerable Tribes

After the completion of field work among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), a work shop on PVTGs was held from 18th to 20th June at the Eastern Regional Centre of Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata. All presentations were discussed threadbare and are being finalized for a final report.



Director along with the experts during the workshop on "Pre-testing of the Module of Social Impact Assessment"

Institutional Ethics Committee Meeting

The Survey organised the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) Meeting at its Head Office, Kolkata on 30th April for the purpose of review of the Plan Projects and Fellowship Programme.

Consortium Meeting

A meeting of the Consortium members of the family studies of Genetics of Type 2 diabetes in Indian populations was held on 9th May to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding between Anthropological Survey of India and the collaborating Institutions, J.S.S. Medical College, and Apoorva Diabetes Foundation, Mysore. Drs. K.Raghottama Rao, H. Basavanna Gowdappa and M. A. Shekhar attended the meeting and Dr. P. B. S. V. Padmanabham, S. A.(P) from the Head Office has convened the meeting in the SRC, Mysore.

World Thalassemia Day

To mark the World Thalassemia Day on 8th May, Anthropological Survey of India

Development of Zonal Anthropological Museums

Zonal Anthropological Museum, An.S.I., Jagdalpur has organized a Workshop "Development of Zonal Anthropological Museums" from 10th to 11th May at its office premises.

International Museum Day

All the Regional Centres of the An.S.I. celebrated the International Museum Day on 18th May at their Regional Centres. On this occasion, the Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur organised an exhibition 'Museum and Changing World' on 18th and 19th May to showcase the role of Museums in the preservation of cultural heritage and to generate awareness as well as a sense of cultural pride among the general masses.



Prof. (Smt.) Jaylaxmi Thakur, Vice Chancellor, Bastar Vishwavidyalaya and Dr. D. N. Pandey, Head of Office, Head Office, Kolkata look on while Dr. K. M. Sinha Roy, Head of Office, Sub-Regional Centre lights the traditional lamp



*Consortium Meeting in progress,
Southern Regional Centre, Mysore*

Thalassemia with special reference to the tribes of West Bengal organized by the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Cancer Research Institute in collaboration with DBT at Swabhami.

Publication

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Departmental Promotion

On the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee, Smt. P. S. Radhamony

and Sri Rabin Mukherjee have been promoted from the position of Office Superintendent to the post of Junior Administrative Officer, while Sri R. Bhattacharjee has been promoted from Stenographer Grade I to Senior P. A.

Super Annuation

During the quarter, Smt. Indrani Naskar, R. A. (C), Sri C. S. Khulkute, Driver Mechanic Grade I, Sri Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Assistant, Sri S. R. Barua, Publication Officer and Sri Yaseen Saheb S. A. (P) have retired from the active Government service.

took part in a rally, organized by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal and Dept. of Haematology, NRS Medical College and Hospital, as a mark of solidarity for the prevention and eradication of Thalassaemia.

Dr. B. N. Sarkar delivered a lecture "Prevention of Beta-Thalassemia in Southern Bengal" in the symposium-cum-workshop on control of



*Anthropological Survey of India, participating a
rally to mark the World Thalassemia Day*



*Dr. B. N. Sarkar, delivering the lecture "Prevention
of Beta-Thalassemia in Southern Bengal"*

OBITUARY



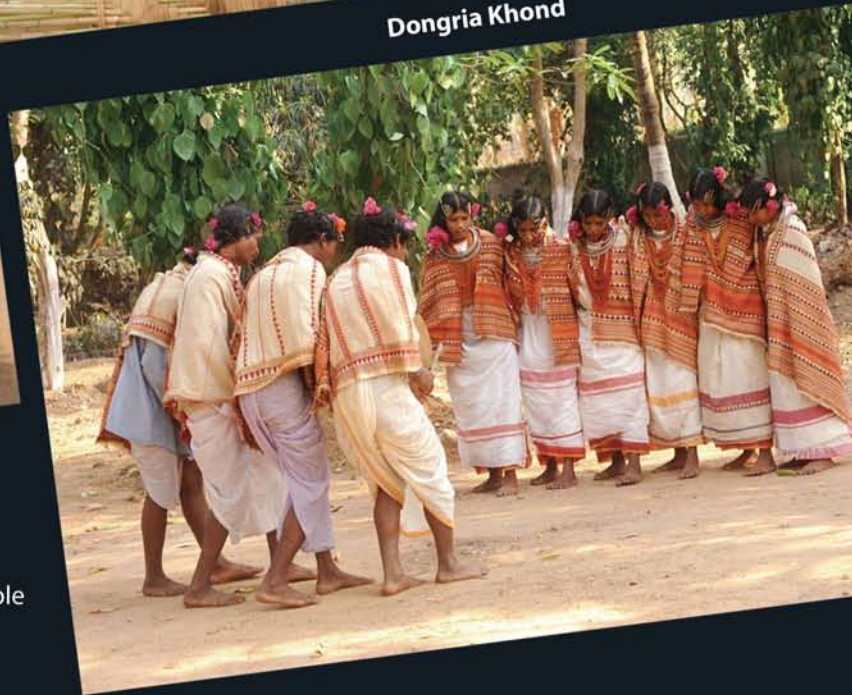
Prof B.K.Roy Burman, a renowned anthropologist and a versatile scholar, passed away on 26 June, 2012 in his New Delhi residence at the age of 90. Born in 1922, Roy Burman completed his doctoral studies in Anthropology from Calcutta University and started working at the West Bengal Tribal Research Institute in Kolkata. Later he rose to the position of Deputy Registrar-General of the Census of India and Officer-on-Special Duty heading the Social Studies Division of the Registrar-General of India. He was also Visiting Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Professor at Visva-Bharati University, ex-officio Director of the Council of Social Development and Visiting Senior Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. He was known for his passion for tribal issues in India, particularly in the Northeast India. His demise has created a vacuum in the anthropology and tribal studies circles, which is difficult to be filled-up. The fraternity of Anthropological Survey of India deeply mourns his death.



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Front Cover: Bondo, Malkangiri, Odisha
Back Cover: Some Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups from Odisha

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Published by
 Director

Anthropological Survey of India

Ministry of Culture
 Government of India

27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata – 700 016

Phone : (033) 22861781 / 22861733 / 22529892

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