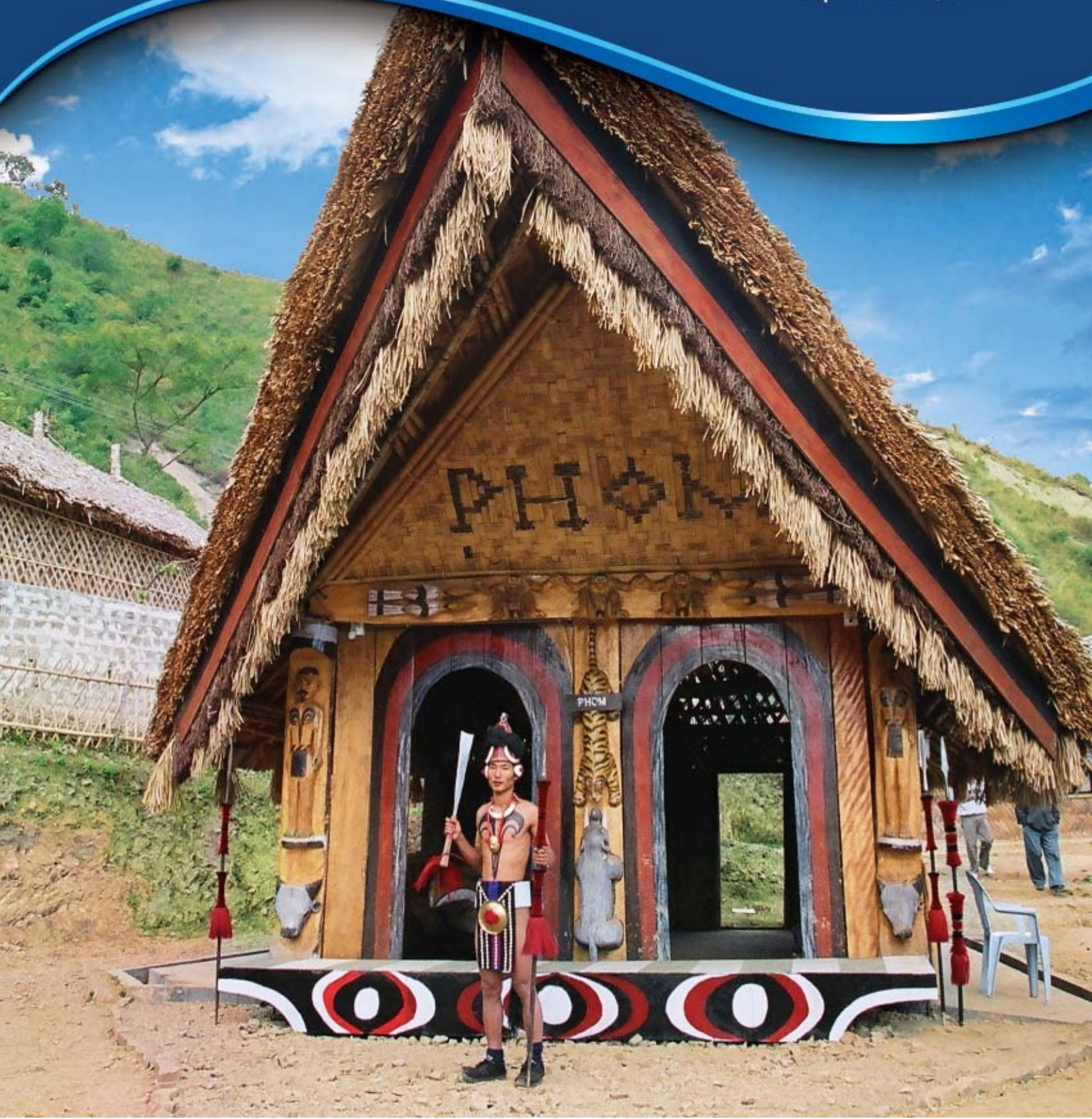


Anthropological Survey of India

# NEW LETTER

April-June, 2011





# PRESIDENTIAL AWARD



*Hon'ble President Mrs. Pratibha Patil conferring the award of Young Scholar to Dr. Simon John.*

Dr. Simon John, Research Associate (Folk Lore) attached to the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore and is presently on deputation to the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi was awarded the Young Scholar Presidential Award, for his contribution to the Tamil Folk Lore Studies, during the year 2007-08, on 6th May, 2011. The award is instituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

## LECTURE ON PLURAL NATURE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Sri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India delivered the Golden Jubilee Lecture of the Indian Anthropological Society, on the "Plural Nature of Anthropology" held during 6th & 7th June, 2011 at the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata. Prof. R. K. Jain, Prof. R. Perival Alwar were the other prominent speakers during the Conference.

## EDITORIAL



*It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Newsletter of Anthropological Survey of India is being revived incorporating some of the significant events of the Survey during the quarter, April to June, 2011. We are privileged to have the*

*Secretary (Culture), Government of India, at our Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake, Kolkata on 6th June, 2011 to deliver a lecture on "Anthropology and Cultural Heritage" as part of the Golden Jubilee Lectures of the Indian Anthropological Society, in collaboration with Anthropological Survey of India and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal. During this quarter, we pursued our research efforts in different continuing Research Projects, viz, Traditional Knowledge Systems, People of India: Cultural Diversity, Community Genetics and Health, People of India: Bio-Cultural Adaptation, etc. Our Regional Centers are also active in conducting research, organizing seminars and symposia, exhibitions, etc in conformity with the objectives of the Anthropological Survey of India. We take this opportunity to congratulate our colleague, Dr. Simon John for receiving the prestigious Young Scholar Presidential Award in May, 2011. We look forward to your comments and suggestions in improving the quality of this Newsletter in future.*

**Prof. K. K. Misra,**  
Director



*Sri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture during the Conference.*



# RESEARCH PROJECTS

## Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS): Intangible and Tangible Cultural Heritage

All reports related to the Genealogical Records and traditional knowledge systems in the sacred centers of India have been submitted, thus completing the work.

A brief report on a study of Muslim Jurrah has also been submitted under the project.

Under the aspect of Traditional Medicine, reports on the Tai Ahom of district Sibsagar, Assam and Toto society and culture with special emphasis on their indigenous knowledge of native medicines were submitted.

Two reports on the study of traditional cultivation practices among the Bhoi Khasi of Meghalaya and the Tai Ahom of district Sibsagar, Assam were also submitted.

Reports related to traditional knowledge associated with medicinal plants among the Kolam (Andhra Pradesh) and the Betta Kuruba (Karnataka) are under finalization.

Holistic village studies in Malnad and Kutch as well as the community studies of the Kadar (Kerala), Kani (Tamil Nadu) and Nicobarese (Katchal island of the Andaman and Nicobar islands) are under preparation.

A report on the case study of traditional knowledge benefit sharing mechanism with respect to the arogyapacha among the Kanikar of Kerala is also under preparation.

The first phase of field work has just been completed under the "People of India: Cultural Diversity and Study of Traditional Knowledge" among the Apatani of Arunachal Pradesh.

A report based on the reconnoiter tour on the theme 'Fishing in coastal Areas / Regions' has been received and the first phase of field work in the coastal Karnataka is to commence soon.

**Social Impact Assessment (SIA) :** After the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy of the Govt. of India came into effect, Anthropological Survey of India has prepared a draft module on Social

Impact Assessment. Thereafter four situations were selected for pre-testing of the draft module as well as instruments of SIA. The situations were:

1. Vedanta Bauxite Mining and processing unit at Niamgiri Hill area in Kalahandi district;
2. Posco Steel Project in Jagatsinghpur district and its mining areas in Keonjhar and Sundergarh districts of Odisha and
3. Thermal Power Projects in Karchhana and Bara tehsils of Allahabad district, Uttar Pradesh.

Three research teams were formed for the pre-testing of draft module on SIA and prepare its instruments. These teams conducted field work in the month of May, 2011 for about fifteen days. Presently the reports are being finalised.

In addition, the SIA study of Polavaram Dam Project was undertaken and the report has been completed.

## Endangered Nihali of Central India

Completed field work in the Buldana district of Maharashtra under the project 'Endangered Nihali of Central India'.

## Visual Anthropology

Completed the first phase of documentation work on Patachitra of Odisha in connection with the Visual Anthropology project.



A Toda man in traditional attire in front of the famed dairy temple of the Todas.



A Kota priest in Sholur Kokkal



### **Community Genetics Extension Programme : Molecular Characterization of $\beta$ – Thalassaemia in Southern Bengal**

Completed field work on awareness level of the Thalassaemia in Diamond Harbour in connection with the project Community Genetics Extension Programme. Analysis of data is under progress.

### **Community Genetics and Health : Human Genetics Extension Programme – Sickle Cell Anaemia and Thalassemia in the Vidarbha Region of Central India**

Organized two day camp 'Awareness for Prevention of Sickle Cell Anaemia' at Madhota Village, Jagdalpur during 21st and 22nd May, 2011. During the camp, a total of 255 individuals were screened for sickle cell trait (by means of solubility test) & intravenous blood samples were collected from 66 individuals for further analyses at the Central Regional Center's Laboratory, Nagpur.

Testing and standardization of protocols for molecular based haplotype evaluation of the sickle cell mutation bearing chromosomes is being carried out.

### **People of India: Bio-cultural Adaptation – Community Genetics & Health in North East India**

A field study was conducted among the Angami Naga of Kohima and Dimapur, Nagaland and 200 blood samples were collected. Analyses of the samples is underway.

### **DNA polymorphism in contemporary Indian populations**

Beginning March, 2011 data and blood samples were collected from four populations of Andhra Pradesh, viz., Yanadi, Erukala, Chenchu and the Hadrami; the first three are the Scheduled Tribes while the Hadrami, also called Yemeneese is a small community based in Hyderabad. The Sholiga, a vulnerable tribe from Karnataka was also covered for the project. During the months of May-June, blood samples and data were collected from three more

vulnerable tribal communities of Tamil Nadu, viz., the Toda, Kota and Alu Kurumba.

With the addition of these communities, samples from a total of sixty one populations are in the DNA repositories of the Anthropological Survey of India. During the current year, five more communities from Kerala and Tamil Nadu would further be added to the list.

Analyses of Y- Chromosome SNPs and STRs is in progress and after that mitochondrial DNA analysis would be taken up for the communities that were not included in the first batch of analysis.

Under "DNA polymorphism & Diseases: Handigodu syndrome", 310 blood samples and 100 X-rays from afflicted people in Chikkamagaluru district of Karnataka were collected during a recent field work. PCR and sequencing work on the samples of Handigodu syndrome from Shimoga district is under progress. Apart from the above, the collaborative work with the Department of Anthropology, Delhi University (Genomic Heterogeneity among Tribes of Southern Gujarat) and Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata (mt. DNA polymorphisms among Muslim population of West Bengal) are in different stages of analyses. Collection of blood samples and extraction of DNA in relation to another collaborative project with the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore on Autism is also under progress.

### **People of India: Bio-cultural Adaptations, Genetics and Health – Family Study**

During the current phase of the project under progress in the Southern Regional Center, fresh blood and urine samples from 86 patients and controls were collected along with demographic data, anthropometric measurements etc. These samples were subjected to various bio-chemical tests as envisaged in the project. Also DNA extraction was carried out for a total of 125 samples and DNA quantification was carried out for 350 samples.

### **The Siwalik Project**

Fieldwork under the Siwalik Project was conducted for five weeks during April and May, 2011 in the Siwalik area of Haritalyangar (district Bilaspur), and in the Ranital and Nurpur areas (Kangra district) of Himachal Pradesh.

Some remains of fossil fauna were discovered which include aquatic as well as mega terrestrial ones bearing the palaeo-environment of the hominoid ancestors. In addition, a Palaeolithic Chopper was discovered, away from its factory site along the Beas-Banganga river terraces, known to have yielded many Palaeolithic implements earlier.



*Fossils and Palaeolithic Implements recovered during Explorations in the Siwaliks.*

The archaeological evidence indicates penetrance of the Late Acheulian Prehistoric man into the Soanian cultural area of the sub-Himalayan region. Further explorations would enable us to understand the inter-regional and pan-Indian prehistoric migrations of the early humans.

### **A Holistic Study Of Gurkha**

An extensive village study of the Gurkha from Karbari Grant village of Dehradun district (Uttarakhand), was conducted by the research team of the North Western Regional Centre, Dehradun. The study focused on socio-cultural, physical and biological aspects of the community. The socio-cultural aspects thus covered include demographic profile, migration pattern, agro-economy, occupational structure, religious belief system as well as the health practices of the population, in the context of change in their social structure. The physical and biological study of the community included parameters like blood pressure





*Sansari Mata Puja performance by the Gurkha.*

and somatometric measurements. Blood samples were collected and tested for blood group identification, haemoglobin and blood sugar level. DNA was extracted for further studies.

Researchers could document in detail a significant religious tradition of the Gurkha, Sansari mata puja during their study; it is celebrated every year with lot of zeal and reverence on the preceding Saturday of 'Chaitra Navratra'. During the puja, performed for the well being and prosperity of the community, the deity (made of dough) is taken in a palanquin (palki) procession across the village to the sacred Sal (*Shorea robusta*) tree in jungle and is invoked by offering religious performances by the villagers. The puja ends with distribution of 'prasad' and partaking of a feast by the entire village community.

#### **Other Activities**

##### **Review Meeting**

Prof. K. K. Misra, Director visited the Southern Regional Center during 13-14, May 2011 and reviewed the progress of all ongoing projects and other activities

of the Centre. Special attention was paid to the ongoing DNA laboratory work which was reviewed with Dr. B. N. Sarkar, Anthropologist (Physical), Head Office who joined the scientific staff of the Centre, during the review.



*Prof. K. K. Misra, Director (middle) during his visit to the S.R.C., Mysore.*

##### **Executive Committee Meeting**

The first Executive Committee Meeting of the Financial Year 2011-12 was organized at the Western Regional Centre, Udaipur and all Heads of Offices of different Regional Centers attended the meeting on the 9th and 10th April, 2011. Compliance Report of the Executive Committee meeting held at Kolkata on 12th and 13th January 2011 was presented. Status reports of the different national projects and budgetary estimates for the financial year 2011-12 were also presented during the meeting. Organizational review and restructuring, including revision of Recruitment Rules were discussed. One



*Study visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture to the Zonal Anthropological Museum, An.S.I., Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair. Prior to their visit to the ZAM, the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee inspected the role of An.S.I. in tourism related activities at Megapod on June 30, 2011.*





Sri D. N. Pande, Head of Office Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata welcoming Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, during the Executive Committee meeting.

of the important highlights of the meeting was a discussion on the twelfth Plan projects. Results Framework Document for the current year was also discussed threadbare and finalized.

Other important points discussed during the meeting include holding National /



Some Executive Committee members.



During the inauguration of the International Museum Day.

International Seminar, Orientation Courses, Refresher courses and the activities of the School of Anthropology during the year 2011-12, updating of the Survey's Website, bringing out regular Newsletter, printing of Brochure for the Survey, and making of a ten minute Documentary Film, etc.

#### **International Museum Day**

Anthropological Survey of India, Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur celebrated International Museum Day from 18th to 19th May, 2011 on the theme "Museum and Memory" as selected by the ICOM. Besides a photography exhibition on the theme "Memories of Zonal Anthropological Museum, Jagdalpur", 50 rare museum specimens were also on display during the celebration. Performance of Bhatra Naat and a folk dance of Dhurwa were a part of the



"Screening for Sickle Cell Anaemia and Awareness for Prevention" Camp.

celebration of IMD. Sarpanches, old and young of the nearby tribal villages and local intellectuals of Jagdalpur actively participated in the celebrations.

#### **Screening for Sickle Cell Anaemia and Awareness for Prevention**

As a part of the Community Genetic approach to combat Sickle Cell Anaemia, Anthropological Survey of India Jagdalpur with the help of scientific staff of Central Regional Centre, Nagpur organized two day camp "Screening for Sickle Cell Anaemia and Awareness for Prevention" in a Halba dominated tribal village, Madhota, district Bastar from 21st to 22nd May, 2011.

Local Medical staff, ICDS Department, Block officials and traditional/ community tribal leaders have provided assistance for the successful organization of the camp.



Bhatra Naat during the International Museum Day Celebrations.



## REGIONAL WORKSHOP



*Prof. G. Thiruvassagam, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras inaugurating the Regional Workshop. Prof. P. K. Mishra, Dr. P. R. G. Mathur and Shri Raghu are on the podium.*

Anthropology in the service of the contemporary society, he said that since research in its present state has its limitations, focus should shift to applied aspects.

Adverting the importance of equipping students with soft and communicative skills, Prof. Thiruvassagam said that like other disciplines, Anthropology should also be made multi-disciplinary. He has further stated that the University was implementing a lab to land programme under which a grant of ₹ 5 Lakh is being given for products with promise; he further said that to promote Anthropology, it would introduce a land to lab concept. The aim of higher education is to create a knowledge society. Efforts should be made to enhance awareness of social values. In this, Anthropology has a vital role to play.

Prof. P. K. Mishra, President Anthropological Association, Mysore who presided the inauguration lamented that though the Anthropological Survey of India has done a remarkable work, but it has not been taken into account by the academic community.

Dr. P. R. G. Mathur, the former Director, Kerala Institute for Studies of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes, who was the Guest of Honour, said that the role of Anthropology in various issues confronting the country should be studied. The Head of Office of the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore, Dr. B. Francis Kulirani, Superintending Anthropologist welcomed the gathering and introduced the workshop.

The Southern Regional Centre has embarked on a year long Golden Jubilee (1960-2010) celebrations during 2010-2011. A major activity launched by the Centre in this regard is to hold a state wise workshop on the topic 'Anthropological Research, Teaching and Training: Retrospect and Prospect'. The centre has already completed the Kerala (21-22 Dec 2010, Kannur University) and Andhra Pradesh (27-28 Jan 2011, Central University, Hyderabad) and during 28-29 April, the Tamil Nadu leg of the workshop ('Anthropological Research, Teaching and Training in Tamil Nadu : Retrospect and Prospect') was held at Ooty in association with the Department of Anthropology,

University of Madras, University of Pondicherry & Tribal Research Centre, Ooty. It was inaugurated on 28th of April, 2011 at Ooty by Prof. G. Thiruvassagam, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras. In his inaugural address, Prof. G. Thiruvassagam said that in order to promote the discipline of Anthropology, the University will establish a museum of Anthropology in Chennai and a sum of ₹25 Lakh has been earmarked for setting up of the museum. He said that the University will not be found wanting in the efforts to promote Anthropology. He expressed confidence that the number of students opting for Anthropology will go up substantially. Underscoring the need to put

## WORKSHOP ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A Workshop –cum–Orientation Course on Accounts & Establishment matters for the administrative staff of the Anthropological survey of India was held from 16th to 20th May 2011, at the NERC, Shillong. Delegates from the Head Office, Kolkata, Southern Regional Centre, Mysore, Central Regional Centre,

Nagpur, and North West Regional Centre, Dehradun have participated along with the administrative staff of the North East Regional Centre, Shillong. This workshop was aimed at optimising the efficiency and to dwell deep into the administrative procedures in consonance with the changing times.



*Dr. Bibash Dhar, Head of Office and Shri S. C. Middya, Administrative Officer addressing the workshop.*





*Images on the Front & Back Cover  
are of Horn Bill Festival, Nagaland*



*Published by:*  
Prof. K. K. Misra, 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](mailto:newsletter@ansi.gov.in) | Website : [www.ansi.gov.in](http://www.ansi.gov.in)