



Anthropological Survey of India

NEW LETTER

October - December, 2013





Shri K. K. Paul, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya inaugurating the concluding function of the Yearlong Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the North East Regional Centre, Shillong. Shri G. S. Rautela, Director, An.S.I., Shri P. B.O. Warjri, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya and Dr. Bibash Dhar, Head of Office, NERC were present during the function

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



I am happy to report to you, through this Newsletter, a brief account of activities undertaken by Anthropological Survey of India during the last quarter of the year. Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri K.K.Paul graced the occasion of the valedictory function of the

commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the North East Regional Centre at Shillong. Indeed it was a matter of pride that Shillong Centre was the second in a series of Regional Centres established by the An.S.I. which has done a commendable job, in terms of conducting anthropological field explorations in the un-charted areas of the N-E region and making significant contributions in Anthropological studies of the region.

Another interesting activity in this quarter was the curation of the exhibition "People of India". The exhibition highlights about people as seen from the earliest recorded times to the present and

showcase the changes through panels, posters, interactive modules etc. This exhibition was organized to commemorate the Silver Jubilee Year of the establishment Zonal Cultural Centres at Nagpur. The exhibition was well received by the public and the media. Indeed the demand for the exhibition was such that we were to relocate the exhibition to the Zonal Anthropological Museum of the An.S.I. soon after, for about a month. This exhibition was also held at the Raman Science Centre, Nagpur in January, 2014. Two more exhibitions curated and displayed in the last quarter, namely "Adi Chitra" at the Shipagram Utsav in Udaipur and "North-East India: Cultural Heritage" during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the NERC, Shillong.

An.S.I. also organized a National seminar "Tribal Scenario in India" in Shillong, an orientation programme on Visual Anthropology and participated in the Hands-on-Training for the budding scientists organized by the DST at the IIT, Kharagpur. The regional centres also organized health awareness camps, tribal cultural festivals and workshops for tribals during the quarter.

G.S. Rautela
Director

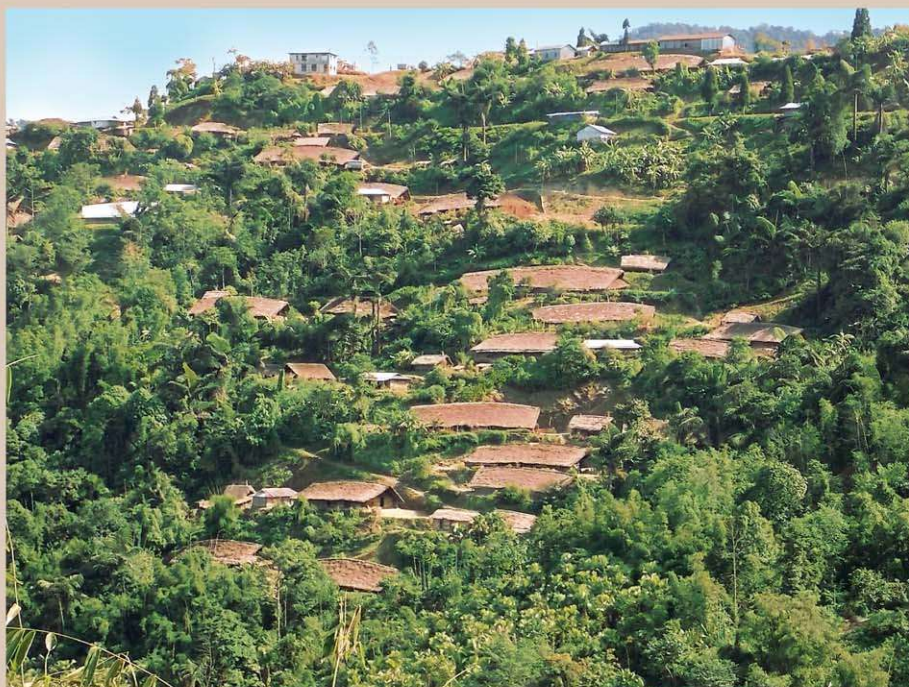
RESEARCH UPDATE

Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development

Most research personnel are engaged in finalizing reports of the project, while some have proceeded on tour to revisit their respective study areas including Kamalghat of Tripura, Kalenhalli of Karnataka, Anjan of Jharkhand and Nasatra of Assam for conducting fieldwork. A team of research personnel assembled at the Western Regional Centre, Udaipur to finalize the report on Parhil village for submission.

Border Area Study under Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development

A team of research personnel from Head Office visited a few villages of Mon district, Nagaland to study identity formation, migration and dynamic relations that operate in border area situations, along with the economic behaviour. The team was primarily concerned with the Longwa village which is strategically located on the Indo-Myanmar border and a part of it lies in Myanmar. The team was also engaged in supervising the documentation of Konyak culture, in a participatory mode, by a few young Konyak scholars who were engaged in documenting the history/origin and customary law in three villages.



A Bird's Eye View of a Konyak village, Longwa in Mon district, Nagaland

Man and Environment: Biosphere Reserve

A research team proceeded to Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh for a study and analysis of conservation ethics embedded in the socio-economic practices of the diverse tribal groups, Adi (with sub-tribes like Ramo, Bokar, Bori, Shimong, Karko, Minyong, Ashing and Tangam), Memba, Khamba and Idu, who are dependent on the reserve to meet their day-to-day needs. These diverse tribal assemblages with their rich cultural diversity contribute significantly to the overall health of the biosphere reserve. The study will also try to evaluate the anthropogenic pressure on DDBR along with the preparation of an inventory of reserve's natural resources used by the people, residing in and around biosphere, using the tools of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System.

DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian Populations

Massive screening of complete mt-DNA sequencing work using 24 primer sets has been taken up at the DNA Laboratories of the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore and Head Office, Kolkata. The work is being carried out with the deployment of researchers from across the various Regional Centres since August. So far sequencing work has been completed for eleven communities

while a few more are in progress. Editing the sequences has also been taken up simultaneously.

Bio-Cultural Adaptation

Ninety four (47 cases & controls) unrelated samples under the project "Bio-Cultural Risk Factor Assessment for Type-2 Diabetes in Gangadikara Vokkaliga of Mysore" were selected for the Case-Control study. Completed the genotyping of 43 SNPs' associated with diabetic risk in which 12 SNPs' were completed through sequencing by ABI 3730 sequencer and remaining 31 SNPs' have been completed through RT-PCR.

DNA sequencing for 418 samples with 21 sets of primers is under progress in connection with the project "Biochemical and Genetic Markers of Dyslipidemia and associated risk factors: A study on Kodavas".

Community Genetics & Health: Bio-cultural Adaptation

Thalassaemia Awareness-cum-Screening Camp was organized at Gariahat, Kolkata for "Community Genetics at High Risk Zones for Thalassaemia, Sickle Cell Anaemia and G6PD Deficiency"

Community Genetics and Health (Human Genetics Extension Programme): Sickle Cell Anaemia and Thalassemia in Central India

A health awareness camp was organized for screening haemoglobin variants and other aspects of health like blood glucose levels during the exhibition "People of India" at Kasturbachand Park, Nagpur organized by South Zone Cultural Centre on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebration of Zonal Cultural Centres. The camp was organized from 10th to 16th November and 260 samples were screened for haemoglobinopathies while another 150 were tested for blood glucose levels during the camp.

Health Camp

A health camp was organised among Kolam for screening haemoglobin variants and for other health aspects at Karanji Village of Pandharkawa block, Yeotmal district, Maharashtra on 2nd & 3rd December.

Preliminary results from Health Awareness Camps'

The Health awareness camp held on 9th and 10th August in the Tharu area of Udham Singh Nagar district, Uttarakhand was attended by 323 individuals (180 male 223 female). Of the 176 individuals tested for random blood sugar, 78.4 % females and 77.2 % males were normal where as 20.8 % female and 19% male were in pre-diabetic stages and one per cent female and 3.8% male are diabetic. Frequency distribution of different

BMI categories suggest that a majority of 42.9 % individuals are of Normal BMI (including 18.5% Low Weight Normal) followed by Chronic Energy Deficient (Grade III-3.5%; Grade II-7.3% and Grade I-15.3%) individuals while Obese individuals are only a few (Grade I-8.7% and Grade II-3.8%). The Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) suggests that 83.5% Tharu were in the Normal range where as 14.5 and two per cent individuals indicate Hypertension and Hypotension, respectively.

The Health awareness camp held in the Buxa area of Dehradun district, Uttarakhand on 4th October was attended by 499 individuals. Three hundred and eighty four individuals screened for random blood sugar suggest that 90.1% were in normal range followed by 7.8% pre-diabetes category and 2.1% Hypoglycaemia. However diabetes is completely absent. Frequency distribution of different BMI categories suggest that 57.5 % of individuals were of Normal BMI (including 21.5% Low Weight Normal) followed by Chronic Energy Deficient (37.8%) individuals across different grades. The least number of individuals (0.9%) were in Obese Grade II Category. The Mean Arterial Pressure of Buxa indicates that 78.9% of individuals were in Normal range followed by 13.6% individuals with Hypertension and 7.6% Hypotension.

Analysis of the data collected during the Health awareness and screening camp organized among Saharia of Baran district, Rajasthan from 27th to 31st August reveal a total 22.75% (11.52% male and 11.23% female) individuals have hypertension as per the JNC 2007 criteria. People suffering from anaemia are around 58.76% (31.62% male and 27.14% female). Centrally obese males are around 7.49% as per Waist/ Hip ratio. Chronic Energy Deficient individuals are around 40.45% (22.75% male and 17.70% female). Only a single case of diabetes has been found. A thalassemic child has been continuously receiving blood transfusion. Gastroenteritis and weakness are very common health problems among them. A high infant mortality (21.72%) has also been reported from this community.

Preliminary results of the Health awareness camp organized on the 4th of August by the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission, Agali and PSG Medical college, Coimbatore in the tribal hamlet of Elachivazhi of Agali Block, Attappady taluk in Kerala reveal that a good number of children were either in Grade-I or Grade-II malnutrition (57 cases). A few cases of Goitre, Tuberculosis and Sickle Cell Anaemia were also reported. Solubility test for Sickle Cell detection indicates that about 20% were carriers and a case of strong homozygote.



An arial view of the Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh

EVENTS

Visual Anthropology Orientation Programme

Under the auspices of the 'International School of Anthropology', the An.S.I. organised a workshop 'Orientation Programme on use of Audio Visual Technology as Research Tool and Teaching Aid' for faculty members and Ph.D. scholars of the Department of Geography, University of Calcutta from 28th October to 1st November at the Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata.

Screening of Rough Cut Films

Visual Anthropology Technical Committee of the An.S.I. organised screening of rough cut of films 'Changpa of Ladakh', 'Bakarwal' of Jammu & Kashmir' and 'Gaddi of Himachal Pradesh' made by Shri Bappa Ray at the Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake, Kolkata on 19th December in the presence of two external experts.

Tribal Cultural Festival

Anthropological Survey of India, Southern Regional Centre, Mysore has organized a Tribal Cultural Festival on 6th October



Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi visiting the exhibition "People of India" in Nagpur

at Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad district in Kerala participated by Adiyan, Kattunayakan, Kurichyan, Mullu Kuruman, Betta Kurumba and Paniyan tribes.

Anthropological Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata in collaboration with the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) organized three days 'Santal Festival' from 7-9 November at the EZCC, Salt Lake campus. The festival attracted huge audience and got wide coverage in media.

People of India exhibition

Anthropological Survey of India organized an exhibition "People of India" showcasing posters, panels, artefacts, stone tools and museum specimens including interactive modules at the Kasturbachand Park, Nagpur on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Zonal Cultural Centres, from 10th to 16th November. The exhibition was well received by more than 25,000 visitors including students from schools and colleges. The Secretary, Govt. of India,



Shri G. S. Rautela, Director of the Anthropological Survey of India addressing the audience during the Santal Cultural Festival in Kolkata

Department of Culture, New Delhi has also visited the exhibition and appreciated the efforts of the An.S.I. A book stall of An.S.I. publications and film shows on tribal cultures across India were also arranged for the visitors and students.

On the demand of students, academicians as well as general public, the "People of India" exhibition was relocated for display at the Central Regional Centre's ZAM from 16th December.

Preparations are afoot to organize the exhibition "People of India" at the Raman Science Centre and Planetarium, Nagpur in January, 2014.

Tribal Scenario in India & North-East India: Cultural Heritage

The concluding function of the yearlong Diamond Jubilee celebration of the North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong was organized on 2nd December. Shri K.K.Paul, Governor of Meghalaya inaugurated a public exhibition, "North-East India: Cultural Heritage". Shri P.B.O Warjri, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya was the Guest of Honour on the occasion and Shri G.S.Rautela, Director, Anthropological Survey of India has presided over the function. Prof. Sheikh Rahim Mondal of the Centre for Himalayan Studies, North Bengal

University delivered the Key Note Address. Thirty research papers were presented during the national seminar "Tribal Scenario in India" organized on the 2nd and 3rd December to mark the occasion and was attended by over 150 scholars.

Adi Chitra

An exhibition on tribal paintings of Rajasthan, "Adi Chitra" was held at Shilpgram during the Shilpgram Utsav from 21st to 30th December.

JPAC

Dr. S. N. H. Rizvi, Anthropologist of the Anthropological Survey of India accompanied a special team of nine members from the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) for field operations to the site located around Chandra Hansa Para village, Longtharai valley, Dhalai district, Tripura associated with the Missing Air Crew Report (MACR) 15043.

Hands-on Training

Four scientific officers delivered lectures on Anthropology and allied disciplines and imparted hands-on- training to some child scientists on 21st & 22nd December during a three week internship by DST, Government of India at the IIT, Kharagpur, West Bengal.



School children as well as elderly men & women including the tourists thronged the exhibition "Adi Chitra" in the Shilpagram Utsav in Udaipur

HONOUR

Dr. B. N. Sarkar, Anthropologist was elected a Fellow (Section XI: Social Sciences) of the West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology for his notable contribution in the field of Anthropology.



MS. Sophana Sri Champa, Director, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia (RILCA), Mahidol University, Thailand visited the An.S.I. and met the researchers on 1st November

Rajabhasha

Shri V. P. Gour, Director, Rajbhasha Vibhag, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India visited ERC on 4th December and interacted with all the staff members in a meeting. A Hindi workshop was organized on 19th and 20th December.

Recruitment

Shri Kumar Mangal Balabantaray has joined as a Sound

Technician in the North West Regional Centre, Dehradun on 31st December.

Superannuation

On reaching the age of superannuation, Shri Nirmal Chandra, Cartographer; Shri B.C.Krishnamurthy, Office Superintendent (October); Shri Sukumar Halder and Shri Shrihari Viswasrao Nikam (Multi Tasking Staff) (December) have retired from active Government service, in the months mentioned in the paranthes.



Shri V. P. Gour, Director, Rajbhasha Vibhag, Ministry of Culture interacting with the staff members of the Anthropological Survey of India



*Front Cover: A Dhamal performance by Sidi Goma group of Ratanpur, Bharuch district, Gujarat.
Photo courtesy : Sabbir K. Sidi, Sidi Goma group, Ratanpur*

Back Cover: Images on the right are Kattunayakan dancers from Nilgiris (above) and Kurichiyan singers (below) from Wayanad during the Tribal Cultural Festival, Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad while the ones on the left are from Santal Festival, Kolkata



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