

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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MOU WITH ODISHA SICKLE CELL PROJECT (NHM ODISHA, GOVT. OF ODISHA), SICKLE CELL INSTITUTE, VIMSAR BURLA, ODISHA

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Anthropological Survey of India (An.S.I.) and the Collaborating Institution/Department signifies a significant collaboration aimed at advancing genetic research in India, particularly concerning inherited haemoglobin disorders in Western Odisha. With AnSI's expertise in genomic diversity and the technical cooperation of the Odisha Sickle Cell Project (NHM, Odisha) VIMSAR Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Burla, Odisha, this agreement outlines a comprehensive approach to studying genetic disorders prevalent in Indian populations. By pooling resources, expertise, and manpower, the collaboration aims to generate comprehensive insights into the genetic basis of haemoglobin disorders prevalent in Indian populations. Through joint publication of research findings and the establishment of a national genetic disorder database, this collaboration has the potential to contribute significantly to medical science and public health initiatives in India.

MOA WITH DEFENCE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA), USA

The Arrangement for Storage and Handling of Remains between the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) signifies a crucial collaboration aimed at addressing the unresolved cases of U.S. Department of Defence personnel missing from World War II. Through this arrangement, DPAA and AnSI intend to conduct joint forensic reviews of human remains recovered during DPAA missions in India, ensuring meticulous documentation and analysis. By leveraging the expertise of forensic scientists from both institutions, the aim is to accurately identify and repatriate remains to the United States, following thorough examination and advanced forensic analysis if necessary. Additionally, as part of a capacity-building initiative, DPAA intends to provide training programs for AnSI scientific officials, enhancing their capabilities to contribute effectively to DPAA operations in India. Overall, this arrangement underscores a commitment to honouring the memory of those lost in conflict, while strengthening collaborative efforts in forensic science and humanitarian endeavours between the two nations.





MOU WITH DBT- CENTRE FOR MICROBIAL INFORMATICS, SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and the DBT-Centre for Microbial Informatics (DBT-CMI) signifies a pivotal collaboration aimed at advancing knowledge in the field of human gut microbial DNA analysis. AnSI, renowned for its seven decades of research in anthropology, brings forth a rich legacy of studying the biological, social, and cultural heritage of India's diverse populations. AnSI is now embarking on a ground-breaking project focusing on the gut microbial genomic study among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India. AnSI's initiative aims to create genetic profile of human gut microbiomes and explore the effect on diet and exposure to biomedicines etc. On the other hand, DBT-CMI, an esteemed bioinformatics center is equipped with cutting-edge computational biology tools and expertise. In tandem, DBT-CMI brings its computational biology capabilities to the table, enabling advanced analysis of microbial metagenomic data collated from the human gut of the PVTGs of India. This partnership is poised to construct profile of population-specific gut microbiomes, and investigate the impacts of dietary shifts and biomedicines on microbial diversity. With commitments to data sharing, training, and ongoing monitoring, this collaboration represents a significant step forward in enhancing our understanding of human-environment relationships and the inferences for the health and well-being of the PVTGs of India, who reside in various geographical settings across the country.



MOU WITH BIRBAL SAHNI INSTITUTE OF PALAEOSCIENCES (BSIP), LUCKNOW

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow, signifies a substantial collaboration aimed at advancing the study and comprehension of ancient and modern DNA. This partnership originates for the recognition that analyzing human skeletal remains and contemporary DNA collections curated by AnSI could significantly benefit from cutting-edge bio-archaeological and modern techniques. The primary objective of this collaboration is to utilize the expertise and resources of both institutions to generate and analyze genome-wide data, with a specific focus on population affinities, migration patterns, and the diversity of population-specific gut microbiomes. Through this partnership, AnSI and BSIP endeavour to deepen our understanding of ancient and contemporary populations in India, elucidating their genetic composition and historical trajectories. The MoU defines specific activities, including knowledge sharing, methodological partnership, and joint publication of study outcome. This partnership is positioned to make significant contributions to the fields of anthropology, genetics, and bio-archaeology in India.

PROPOSED MOU WITH UCL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, LONDON

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University College London Institute of Archaeology (UCL IoA) and the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) stands as a promising framework for future collaboration, although it has yet to be signed. This proposed partnership aims to enhance the study of human skeletal remains curated by AnSI through the application of modern bio-archaeological methods. By leveraging advancements in osteology, histology, and stable isotope analysis, researchers from both institutions aspire to shed new light on the demographic profiles, health indicators, and dietary behaviours of ancient populations. This partnership has the potential to yield ground-breaking insights into human history. However, until the MoU is officially signed and implemented, the full extent of its impact remains hypothetical. However, the commitment to working together and sharing knowledge outlined in this proposed agreement holds great promise for the future progress of archaeological and anthropological research, with the potential to enrich our understanding of past societies and cultures.