



The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), established in 1945 under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is the country's premier institution dedicated to the biological and cultural study of India's diverse populations. Headquartered in Kolkata, Survey functions through eight Regional Centres across the country and undertakes multidisciplinary research, documentation, publications, museum activities, capacity building, academic collaborations and outreach programmes for the preservation and promotion of India's cultural and biological heritage.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

AnSI successfully carried out extensive fieldwork under various National and Regional Research Projects. These field investigations were conducted across different parts of the country and contributed significantly to data collection, project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Major projects undertaken during the year include:

Tribal Health, Genomics and Biological Anthropology

➤ Gut Microbial Genomic Study among the PVTGs of India

AnSI continued nationwide field investigations under this flagship research programme to document the gut microbiome of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). As part of the study, field investigations have so far covered **31 PVTGs** across the country, leading to the identification of more than 40 stable health-associated microbial markers. The project is contributing significantly to the creation of India's bio-heritage database and is expected to provide a scientific foundation for future research on nutrition, preventive healthcare and microbiome-based therapeutic interventions.

➤ EHSAS: Exploring Healthy and Successful Ageing in Smart India: Integrating epigenetics, digital divide, and energy expenditure with reference to IoT, AI and ML

AnSI has launched the EHSAS project to examine the interrelationship between ageing, health and emerging technologies in contemporary India. Integrating research on artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning, epigenetics, energy expenditure and digital inclusion, the project seeks to generate a comprehensive understanding of healthy ageing and quality of life among elderly populations in both smart and non-smart urban settings.

➤ Reconstructing the Impact of Palaeoclimate of Indus-Saraswati Civilization Using Human Osteology, Paleopathology, Stable Isotope & Ancient DNA Analysis

AnSI continued its pioneering research in biological anthropology through ancient DNA, stable isotope and osteological studies aimed at reconstructing India's population history and understanding long-term human adaptation to environmental change. Drawing upon invaluable skeletal collections and archaeological collaborations, the project is generating new evidence on genetic continuity, migration and human adaptation across millennia. A major achievement under the project is the successful ancient DNA study of Burzahom (Kashmir), which has

provided significant evidence of long-term population continuity in the Kashmir Valley while revealing historical genetic interactions with Central Asia, thereby enriching the understanding of the peopling and cultural history of the Himalayan region.

➤ **Impact of Changing Agricultural Practices on Rural Health: A Study in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra**

This project examines the impact of changing agricultural practices on the health and well-being of farming communities in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. The study focuses on the effects of agricultural intensification, including increased use of fertilizers, pesticides and mechanization, on socio-economic conditions, dietary practices and public health. It also investigates mortality, morbidity, reproductive health and community perceptions of disease among tribal farming populations to generate evidence for informed policy interventions.

Border Area and Strategic Research

➤ **Himalayan Border Villages: Impact Assessment of Vibrant Village Programme with Special Reference to Tourism Development & Harnessing the Roots of Indian Civilisation: An Anthropological Study on Himalayan Border Areas**

Under these flagship national research initiatives, AnSI is generating comprehensive ethnographic documentation of India's frontier communities by studying their cultural heritage, migration histories, livelihoods and unique experiences of border life. The projects also assess the socio-economic impact of the Vibrant Villages Programme, with particular emphasis on women's empowerment, cultural preservation, sustainable development and community participation in nation-building. Field investigations cover **17 Vibrant Villages** across Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

National Development and Social Impact Studies

➤ **Transformative Changes in Rural India through Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM): A Social Impact Evaluation through Anthropological Lens**

AnSI continued its nationwide evaluation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to assess the social impact of assured household tap-water access on public health, hygiene, women's empowerment, livelihoods and community well-being. The study provides valuable anthropological evidence on the role of improved water security in enhancing quality of life, strengthening rural economies and promoting sustainable social development. During the year, field investigations were completed in **10 States**, namely Rajasthan, Gujarat, Telangana, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha, Bihar and Haryana.

➤ **Ethnic Groups in Inter-State Borders of Chhattisgarh, India: Identities, Intra & Intra Ethnic Relationships & Developmental Concerns**

The project examines the socio-cultural dynamics of communities residing along the inter-State border regions of Chhattisgarh and neighbouring States, with particular emphasis on identity formation, intra- and inter-community relationships, constitutional status and developmental concerns. The study documents the impact of differing State policies on communities sharing similar socio-cultural backgrounds but possessing different constitutional classifications,

thereby generating evidence relevant to welfare measures, social justice and policy formulation.

➤ **Ethnographic Study on Sikliger Community of Uttarakhand (in collaboration with the State Govt. of Uttarakhand)**

The study documents the historical background, cultural heritage and socio-economic conditions of the Sikliger community in Uttarakhand. It focuses on access to education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities, while also examining issues relating to social exclusion and discrimination, wherever applicable. The findings are expected to provide evidence-based anthropological inputs for consideration of the community's constitutional status and inclusion in the appropriate category within the State.

Indigenous Communities and Environmental Anthropology

➤ **Environmental Changes as Recorded and Experienced by the Onge at Dugong Creek (in collaboration with the Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Sri Vijaya Puram)**

This collaborative research project seeks to document the environmental changes perceived and experienced by the Onge community over generations, including both natural and human-induced factors. The study also records indigenous ecological knowledge, adaptive strategies and inter-generational knowledge transmission. The project aims to develop multimedia cartographic atlases based on the Onge community's understanding of their environment, thereby contributing to indigenous knowledge preservation and environmental anthropology.

➤ **Rock Art Heritage of India, with special reference to Bastar**

The project aims to identify, document and analyse rock art sites in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh through an interdisciplinary anthropological approach. The study examines the motifs, artistic techniques, stylistic characteristics and socio-cultural contexts of rock art while exploring its continuity with contemporary tribal symbolism and cultural practices. The project also seeks to formulate recommendations for heritage conservation and community-based management of rock art sites.

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS

Anthropological Survey of India has entered into various significant academic collaborations with following organizations/ Institutes for enhanced scientific research output:

- Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan
- Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, New Delhi
- Central University of Jharkhand, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Ranchi
- Banaras Hindu University (BHU)
- West Bengal State University, North 24 Parganas, Barasat, West Bengal

NATIONAL CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

- AnSI organised the Indian Anthropology Congress (IAC) 2025 on the theme “Envisioning Anthropology for Developed India” in collaboration with the Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA) at its Head Office, Kolkata.
- Survey provided Collaborative Academic Financial Assistance to Vidya Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, for organising an International Seminar on “Praxis of Anthropology in Human Development.” During the seminar, AnSI organised a Panel Discussion on the National Research Project on the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- Survey has conducted a Symposium on “Population, Environment and Culture: Interdisciplinary Approaches from ongoing Projects of the Anthropological Survey of India” during the 46th Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) 2025, organized in collaboration with the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO) at the Head Office, Kolkata.
- Anthropological Survey of India organized two panel sessions during the Indian Anthropology Congress (IAC) 2026 held at Pondicherry University on 22 February 2026. The sessions focused on the following ongoing research projects:
 - “EHSAS: Exploring Healthy and Successful Ageing in Smart India: Integrating Epigenetics, Digital Divide, and Energy Expenditure with reference to IoT, AI, and ML”
 - “Reconstructing the Impact of Paleoclimate of Indus Saraswati Civilization Using Human Osteology and Paleopathology, Stable Isotope and Ancient DNA Analysis”
- Anthropological Survey of India, in collaboration with Banaras Hindu University (BHU), organized a two-day National Workshop on Collaborative Paleo-anthropology and Population Genetics Research on 23–24 March 2026 at BHU, Varanasi. During the programme, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between BHU and the Anthropological Survey of India to promote interdisciplinary research, educational initiatives, and the establishment of a field station within the BHU campus.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Four Research Personnel of this Survey visited Japan for attending the training programme for the Trainees from India in connection with the Recovery and Repatriation of the Remains of Japanese War Dead at Ministry of Health and Welfare (MHLW), Japan held from 10th to 14th November, 2025.
- Research Personnel of Survey accompanied the delegates from the Japan Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties (JARRWC) to participate in the trial excavation and joint field investigation conducted in Nagaland in the months of September & November, 2025 and February, 2026.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITIONS AND OUTREACH

- AnSI had organized cultural events by tribal communities, a puppet show on “Late Kalibai’s contribution to the freedom movement,” and also installed an ethnic food stall on 15th November, 2025 to commemorate Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre (A&N RC), Sri Vijaya Puram, constructed one Jarawa hut and one Shompen hut within the office premises as part of the open museum initiative of the Zonal Anthropological Museum.

- AnSI through its Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Sri Vijaya Puram, actively participated in the Andaman and Nicobar Book Fair held from 14–22 February 2026 at the ITF Ground, showcasing more than seven decades of pioneering anthropological research and contributions.

COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL EVENTS

- Anthropological Survey of India organized the 5th Parakram Diwas 2026 in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands from 23–25 January 2026 to commemorate the 129th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The inaugural programme was held at Netaji Stadium on 23 January, while cultural programmes were organized at the ITF Ground on 24 and 25 January 2026. In addition, the Ministry of Culture organized an exhibition titled "*Life and Legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose*" at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep for one month beginning 23 January 2026. Further, Survey also organized a seminar titled "*Nation Building, National Integrity and Visions on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose*" on 24 January 2026 and a talk show on "*Subhas Chandra Bose and INA (Legends, Myths and Memories)*" on 25 January 2026.
- Additionally, AnSI also organized a Parakram Diwas programme on 23 January 2026 at Ramgarh, Jharkhand, on the theme "*Anti-Compromise Meet*", in collaboration with the Government of Jharkhand and the Ramgarh Army Cantonment.
- Dr. N. Vijaya Lakshmi, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar had delivered and addressed on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 9th March, 2026.



