EDITORIAL

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction that the July-September, 2011 issue of the Newsletter of the Anthropological Survey of India is in your hands well on time. This quarter, we began our onward journey with the review of our Research Programmes in the Executive Committee meeting held in the North West Regional Centre, Dehradun and ended with the just concluded Golden Jubilee celebrations of our Southern Regional Centre, Mysore. Most importantly, we have finalized the research projects for the ensuing 12th Five Year Plan and the major projects are to be launched in all the 91 Eco-Cultural Zones of India. It is greatly satisfying for me and my colleagues that we could revive the Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India, reprint 26 out-of-print best sellers of the Survey, and publish 18 new titles for circulation. Our publication division deserves all appreciation for this effort. The Sub-Committee on Bio-Medical Anthropology could review the much awaited National Human Genome Regulatory Authority Bill and recommended to fine tune its contents. Shortly, we are going to give a new look to our website, www.ansi.gov.in with more features and visuals. I take this opportunity to welcome the Chairman and distinguished members of our National Advisory Committee, who are scheduled to meet on the 1st of October, 2011, to guide us in our future endeavours.

I wish you all a very happy Dussehra and Diwali.

Prof. K. K. Misra
Director
RESEARCH UPDATE

Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS) – Intangible and Tangible Cultural Heritage

Revision of the draft report on Kani of Kerala is in progress, while the fieldwork among the Kani of Tamil Nadu has been completed. Report on "Indigenous Knowledge and Health Care Practices among the Betta Kuruba of Karnataka" has also been completed.

Report on the Traditional Knowledge among the Nicobarese of Katchal, Nicobar Islands, has been revised. Finalized the report on "Village study of Malnad Region" and the report on the study of Narona village, Rann of Kutch is being finalized.

Updation of the report among the Kadar of Tamil Nadu, Valaparai (Poliachi) is near completion.

Reports on pilot surveys undertaken by the researchers for "Traditional Knowledge with special emphasis on natural environment and its influence on the lifestyle of Bhils of Rajasthan", "Traditional Knowledge system among the Padhar community of Gujarat with special reference to their traditional knowledge system", "Traditional knowledge system among the Kharwa community of Gujarat with special reference to their marine fishing technology", "Pottery making and terracotta art: A study of techniques, art forms and comparative findings from Ahar/Banas culture" have been received. The reports have been reviewed, commented upon and suggestions were given for improvement as well as to undertake regular fieldwork. Fieldwork among the Siddi of Junagadh district, under "Traditional Knowledge System among the Siddi - A primitive tribe of Gujarat: A Psycho-ethnographic study" is being under taken.

Border Area Studies

A field tour was undertaken to Champai district, Mizoram to undertake field investigation on the Indo-Myanmar border, for about a fortnight.

People of India: Bio-Cultural Adaptation, Genetics and Health – Family study

Second phase of work under Mysore family Diabetes study among the Gangadikara Vokkaliga is under Progress. Blood and urine samples were collected from 117 subjects. Psychological and physical activity data including the clinical profiles were collected from 117 individuals. Anthropometric data was collected and body composition tests were also done on 117 individuals; dietary and food habits were collected from 39 households while the estimation of nutritive value of consumed food items was done. Bio-chemical and hormonal tests were done for all 117 samples; DNA extraction and quantification of DNA are being done. Reports of the test results are handed over to the volunteers and necessary counselling is being given to them. Data entry, validation and scrutiny of entries are under progress.

DNA Polymorphism in Contemporary Indian Populations

Analysis of Y primers of M145, M82, M207, M69, M122, M347, M356, P75, M134, M162, M217, M9, M217, M207, M69, M122, M82 SRY have been done. PCR and sequencing of Y chromosome phylogeny of different tribal populations is under progress. Mt. DNA and Y chromosome diversity for the Savara and Paroja tribes is under progress.

Blood samples were collected from among Paniyan, Tai Ahom and Tai Khampti communities.

Association study of the genetic polymorphisms of the Transcription Factor 7-Like 2 (TCF7L2) Gene and type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

First phase of field work is complete; 200 blood samples were collected and DNA extraction has been completed. Preparation for second phase of field work is under way.
**Genome Wide Linkage Analysis of Handigodu Disease in Karnataka, South India**

Report writing and sequence analysis is nearing completion.

Anthropological Survey of India has identified 39 base pair deletion on chromosome 11 (11q 13.4) as a genetic marker for the Handigodu Syndrome (Spondyloepimetaphyseal Dysplasia) causing dwarfism among the Chalawadi and Chennangi populations from Shimoga district, Karnataka.

**Community Genetics and Health - Human Genetics Extension Programme**

Standardization of PCR for the 2KB Beta Globin product after quantitative equalization of respective primers (common forward primer and two internal primers) has been completed.

**Growth and Development of children in North East India**

All researchers deployed in the project are presently engaged in the updation of data collected from the Garo of West Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya.

**Visual Anthropology**

Completed fieldwork in Sundarbans on Bono Bibir Pala. Documentation of Bharia tribe of Chindwara and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh has also been completed.

*Men and women cleaning tamarind, an economic activity of the Savara*
EVENTS

Workshop on Traditional Knowledge: Ethno-Medicine and Cultivation practices

The Director desired that quarterly Newsletter and Brochure of the Survey should come out at the earliest. He has expressed satisfaction about the recently prepared e-Newsletter and suggested certain improvements. The Director was concerned of the revival of Survey’s journal and felt that six years backlog should be cleared and the latest issue should be brought out at the earliest.

The Head of Offices of different Regional Centers and Principal Investigators (PIs) of National projects and Sectional Heads presented their compliance reports.

A workshop was organized from 01st to 03rd of July in the Southern Regional Center, Mysore on the “Traditional Knowledge: Ethno-Medicine and Cultivation practices” with Professors P. K. Misra, R. K. Das and H. K. Bhat as external experts. Full length reports were presented on the Toto (West Bengal), Kolam (Andhra Pradesh), Betta Kuruba (Karnataka), Sauria Paharia (Jharkhand) and Kharwar from Latehar & Sahebganj (Jharkhand). Two reports on the Sikkimese of Sikkim and Bhoi of Meghalaya on cultivation were also presented. Apart from these, reports on Tai Ahom (Assam) and Munda (Jharkhand) were also submitted to the Head Office. All reports were accepted for publication after the incorporation of suggestions.

Executive Committee meeting

Executive Committee (EC) meeting of the Head of Offices and Project in-charges of the Anthropological Survey of India was held on 7th July at NWRC, Dehradun. Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India chaired the session.

The main agenda of the meeting included discussion on the compliance reports of Head of Offices of the previous EC Meeting held on 9th-10th April, review of ongoing research projects, discussion and finalization of draft 12th Plan project proposals, discussion on fund allocation, review of expenditure and inauguration of DNA Laboratory at the North West Regional Center, Dehradun.

DNA Laboratory of the North West Regional Center, Dehradun was formally inaugurated by the Director, Prof. K. K. Misra and inspected the available facilities in the laboratory.

Expert Committee meeting

An expert committee meeting was held from 8th to 9th July at NWRC, Dehradun, attended by eminent experts Professors A. C. Bhagabati, R.K. Mutatkar, K. K. Basa and P.K. Das. All Head of Offices, Principal Investigators and Officer-in-charge of different sections of the Survey were also present. Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, An.S.I. chaired the session.

At the outset, Prof. Misra opined that there should be one or two projects of National importance while regional, individual and specific projects could be continued as per the requirements. Such a National project should involve all available expertise in the Survey including Social Anthropology, Biology, Human Ecology, Psychology, Paleo-Anthropology, Statistics and other sections. Further, the time tested Anthropological method must be the core methodology for these projects.
All Head of Offices and Principal Investigators presented their status reports of 11th Plan Projects and have felt that they should be continued during the 12th Plan as well. After a series of discussions with the experts and taking suggestions from the participants, the title of the new National project was christened “Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development.” The project is to be launched in one or more villages from each of the 91 Eco-Cultural Zones of the country during the next Plan period.

“Diminishing Culture of South Asia”

The UNESCO cell of the Ministry of Culture has nominated Dr. B. N. Sarkar, Anthropologist form Anthropological Survey of India as one of the Indian delegate to participate in the regional conference “Diminishing Culture of South Asia” at Kandy organized by the SAARC Culture Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka during 19-21 July. Dr. Sarkar presented a paper entitled “Diminishing Culture of the Tribes of Andaman Islands: Bio-Cultural Perspectives.” He has visited the Indigenous Folk Museum of the Vedda at Dambana, Central Province, Sri Lanka and met the Veddas.

Visual Anthropology

A meeting of the Visual Anthropology expert committee was held on the 19th July, attended by four external experts Professors Mihir Bhattacharya of Jadavpur University, Biren Das Sharma of SRFIT, Kolkata including well known film makers Sri Saumitra Dastidar and Sri Saurabh Sarangi along with some members of the Visual Anthropology unit of the
Anthropological Survey of India to discuss about the establishment of a library of Anthropologically relevant films at the National Center for Visual Anthropology at the Anthropological Survey of India, Head office, Kolkata.

Another meeting of the Visual Anthropology expert committee took place on 2nd August in which Professors Mihir Bhattacharya and Biren Das Sharma, the external experts along with some members of the Visual Anthropology unit examined a proposal from Sri Bappa Ray for making a seven part film “Pastoralism in India”.

Meeting of National Advisory Sub-Committee on Bio-Medical Anthropology

A meeting of the National Advisory Sub-Committee on Bio-Medical Anthropology was organized in the Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata on 16th July. Professors R.K. Mutatkar, P.K. Das, Saratchandra Singh, Mitashree Mitra and Indu Talwar have attended the meeting. Some scholars from the Anthropological Survey of India have also participated in the meeting.

Prof. R.K. Mutatkar presided over the meeting and Dr. B. N. Sarkar has apprised the committee members and participants of the import of the Human Genome Regulatory Authority Bill and elicited learned members’ response.

Prof. Mutatkar stressed that observations of members from diverse disciplines should be taken into consideration while giving a final shape to the clauses and provisions in the Bill. Prof. Mutatkar and members of the committee strongly felt that it should be ensured that the Anthropological Survey of India’s role and position in the Human Genome Regulatory Authority should be paramount. Members also discussed to the effect that the Bill need to be referred to the Human Rights Commission and a sitting or a retired Judge’s opinion should be sought before the Bill is finalized.

The house was informed of an updated progress of the Xth Plan projects on Bio-Medical Anthropology and was proposed to continue all projects during the Xth Plan as well.

The Sub-Committee members unanimously recommended that the Survey should procure a Whole Genome Sequencer in view of rich diversity of the People of India and further recommended to revive the proposal to establish the Ancient Bio-molecule Laboratory in view of the Survey’s rich and rare ancient human skeletal repository.

Facets of Anthropological Research, Teaching and Training in Karnataka: A Retrospect and Prospect

A two day workshop was held as a part of the Karnataka leg of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Southern Regional Centre, in the Department of Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwad on 9th and 10th August. Prof. L. K. Mahapatra, former Vice-Chancellor of Utkal & Sambalpur Universities, inaugurated the workshop.

A ten day exhibition “Human Origins, Genome and the People of India” was also organized to coincide with the celebrations from 1st August, at Karnataka Arts College, Dharwad.
international border in Meghalaya and Indo-Chinese international border in Arunachal Pradesh were presented during the workshop. Professors A.C. Bhagabati, Indira Baruah, B.K. Medhi were experts who reviewed the reports. Two other Professors Md. Taher and A.K. Bhagabati have also participated in the workshop in view of their experience of international borders in North-East India. Reports would be finalized after incorporating suggestions from the experts.

Exhibition in Chennai

Southern Regional Center, Mysore has mounted the exhibition “Human Origins, Genome and the People of India” in collaboration with the Government Museum, in its institutional area campus, Chennai as part of the year long Golden Jubilee celebrations from 30th August to 9th September. Thiru S. P. Shumuganathan, Hon’ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments and Tamil language & Culture Department, Government of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the exhibition. Thiru S.S. Jawhar, I.A.S., Commissioner, Govt Museum, Chennai and Dr. S. Mohanadoss, I.A.S., Commissioner, Tourism Development, Govt. of Tamil Nadu were also present on the occasion.

Executive Committee meeting

Heads of Office of different Regional Centers and in-charges of different sections of the Head Office attended the Executive Committee meeting held on 20th of September, on the eve of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Southern Regional Center, Mysore. Prof. K. K. Misra, Director chaired the meeting and reviewed the progress of work. A draft five year Plan proposal was finalized for submission to the National Advisory Committee. The Director has formed committees, one dealing with the Cultural Anthropology and the other with the Physical Anthropology Division to review and monitor work related to all ongoing projects and schemes, under implementation. A Workshop is to be organized for Social Impact Assessment project in Kolkata and a Orientation course is also to be held for the newly recruited Research Associates’ (Cultural) of the Survey. Compliance Reports of the Executive Committee meeting held in Dehradun were submitted and presentations were made of the progress of research and expenditure position by different Heads of Office.

“Food Gathering to Cyber Culture: The Trajectory of Human Development”

The Southern Regional Centre entered its 50th year in 2010 and the year long Golden Jubilee was concluded with a two day National Seminar “Food Gathering to Cyber Culture: The Trajectory of Human Development” on 21st and 22nd September. Prof. S. Settar, Emeritus Professor, National Institute
of Advanced Studies, IISc. & Director, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore inaugurated the conference. Professors P. K. Das of Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and C.G. Hussain Khan of Karnataka University, Dharwad were the Guests of Honour. Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata & Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalya (IGRMS), Bhopal introduced the seminar and presided over the inaugural function. In his opening remarks, Prof. Misra touched the historical context in which the Organization was founded and the able leadership provided by the earlier Directors. The Director has recounted fifty years of research contribution made by the SRC and the contributions made by the scholars who have served the centre in various capacities. While introducing the seminar, Prof. Misra said that the theme is reflective of the contemporary times of human development as can be seen in the papers that are slated for presentation.

Dr. B. Francis Kulirani, Head of Office, SRC, Mysore proposed a vote of thanks.

Twenty five research papers and eight poster presentations were made during the conference. Academics, research scholars and field workers engaged in the study of different themes participated in the seminar.

In his valedictory address, Prof. P. K. Misra complimented the organizers for choosing a theme which is reflective of the contemporary human existence. He noted that the human kind has ably adapted to all corners of the world and the journey of man is a deliberate attempt to keep up the progress.

Prof. K. K. Basa, former Director of the An.S.I. and Professor, Department of Anthropology, Utkal University in his Presidential remarks complimented Southern Regional Centre for its excellent track record of creating Anthropological data base on the region both on biological and socio-cultural aspects. He made a clarion call on the need for ‘back to integration’, which is urgently needed for the discipline.

A cultural programme of folk dance and classical music marked the occasion and all former and current employees of the SRC were presented with mementos in recognition of their contribution.

Review of the ongoing research activities of the DNA laboratory, SRC, Mysore

Professors P.K. Das and P.B. Ghai, both Physical Anthropologists as well as Human Genetics experts reviewed the work done under the projects, DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian Populations, DNA Polymorphism and Disease, and the MYFADS work on the Bio-Cultural Adaptation, on a request from the Director, Anthropological Survey of India. The research work being pursued by the JRF/SRF has also been reviewed by the experts in presence of the PIs’ of the projects including the in-charge, DNA laboratory, Kolkata.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture’s visit to the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore

Dr. V. Venu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture visited the Southern Regional Center on 27th September. The Joint Secretary was briefed of the just concluded Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Center and he has also interacted with researchers and other staff of the Center.
LIFE AND CULTURE IN INDIA

Anthropological Survey of India organized an exhibition “Life and Culture in India” at the “15th National Exhibition” conducted by Central Kolkata Science & Culture Organization for youth, held from 7th to 11th August at Bhaiav Gangul College Maidan, Belghoria, Kolkata. The exhibition was inaugurated by Sri Bratya Basu, Education Minister, Government of West Bengal.

The exhibition focused on the life and culture among the people of different ethnic groups including high Himalayan, coastal, forest and plains regions throughout the country. A large number of visitors attended the AnS.I.’s exhibition.

HINDI DIVAS & HINDI PAKHWADA

On the eve of Hindi Pakhwada from 15th to 30th September, Anthropological Survey of India, its Regional Centers and Sub-Regional Center have organized different events to popularize Hindi, the official language and to encourage the staff.

The AnS.I., Jagdalpur has also organized a workshop and dedicated an exhibition to the work and literature of four important Halbi writers on the valedictory day of Hindi Pakhwada.
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Front Cover
A performance of “Dolukunita” folk dance to ceremonially welcome guests during the valedictory of the SRC Golden Jubilee celebrations

Back Cover
Independence Day celebrations, August 15, 2011

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