



Anthropological Survey of India

# NEW LETTER

July-September, 2014





*Inauguration of Adi Bimba at Bharatiya Cultural Complex, Salt Lake*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Reader,

With immense pleasure I report to you that despite heavy spells of shower during July-September, the Anthropological Survey with its regional offices has continued to march ahead with mandate and vision. First phase of intensive as well as extensive field surveys have been completed in the villages/human habitats of various difficult terrains across the country. Our scholars, who have been engaging themselves in search of phylogenetic root of Indian tribes, have moved closer with advance molecular tools and techniques.

Beside, fundamental approaches in understanding the bio-cultural plurality of India; we did extend anthropology to masses. Series of health awareness (on endemic diseases and inherent disorders) and health check-up (ailments and nutritional health)

programmes at tribal villages in one hand and various capacity building (training-cum-workshop) programmes among unemployed tribal youths and female folk in another were the hallmark of activities that have made the tribal-folk to understand that as an organization, Anthropological Survey of India, is for humankind.

Observation of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 68th Anniversary of our Independence and Hindi Diwas/Pakhwara at every Regional/Sub-Regional Centres in a befitting manner brought bliss and brilliance of the occasions.

Participation of some of our scholars in international forums obviously have made us proud and our journey meaningful.

Winter is not much ahead. I do hope activities initiated in previous quarter will continue with vigour in coming months.

I wish you all very best for 2015.

**G.S. Rautela**  
Director

# RESEARCH UPDATE

## Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development (Village Study)

The brooks of Indian culture are being nourished by millions of villages for years, which are spread over the length and breadth of the country. Although a village apparently embosses only very specific identity of physical space, but functionally it is the cradle of inclusive economic system, social solidarity and, obviously, it is the core of an integrated relationship between human and nature within that specific physical boundary.

Under this project, research personnel have been deployed for thorough study of various villages, which are located in several eco-settings of the country. By and large, the entire period of the second quarter (July-September) signifies the peak agricultural season (Kharif) of India and most of the villages are agricultural by nature. South Tripura District of Tripura; Gaon/Gunwadi, Pune (Maharashtra); Jaurasi, Gwalior (M.P.); Sardi, Korea (Chhattisgarh); Sultanpur, Karnal (Haryana); Senapur, Jaunpur (U.P.); Chawra, Nicobar (A&N Islands); Kuotala (Pearson's Pally), Birbhum (W.B.); Kapileswar, Bhubaneswar (Odisha); Ghaghara, Khunti (Jharkhand); Radhvanaj, Kheda (Gujrat); Kasindra, Ahmedabad (Gujrat); Jambur, GirSomnath, (Gujrat); Sultana, Jaisalmer (Rajasthan); Parsa, Madhubani (Bihar); Cooch Behar town and Dinhat Block in Cooch Behar of West Bengal are those areas, where research personnel had carried out intensive field studies during July-September, 2014.

The above mentioned villages/areas were first studied during the sixties. Monographs of those were either published in Census of India or in the works of some eminent scholars. Some of those villages are now incorporated in urban settings. Re-study of those villages/areas after an interval of half a century would exactly reflect the consequence of urbanization and various developmental policies in those areas in the course of time. Let's have a journey to some of those villages/areas:

### Kuotala of Birbhum, West Bengal

The village of Kuotala falls under the Bolpur sub-division and Bolpur-Sriniketan block of Birbhum district of West Bengal. It is surrounded by neighbouring villages like Balipura, Baganpara and Kaligunge. There are 356 residents in the village, who are spread across 110 households. Santhal is the main ethnic group of this village. Baske, Hembram, Marandi, Kisku, Hansda, Murmu are the popular clans amongst the Santhals of Kuotala. However, a few Bengali families and a family from Bihar are also the part of the ethnic mosaic of the village.

During the bygone days, the village economy was fairly fluid. Agriculture, hunting-gathering, fishing, rearing of animals and wage labour were the main means of livelihood which were opted

for as when the need arose. During the late seventies, a major change had occurred in the village economy. People turned exclusively to agriculture. However, in the present day, the village economy has transformed with the demand of hard cash in hand, at the end of the day. Menial work in various developmental activities run by government and/or non-government organizations and getting engagement in Visva Bharati is considered more lucrative than intensive agricultural practices by larger number of villagers. The female counterparts of the families of Kuotala are also earning members these days, mainly through housekeeping services that is provided to the urban neighbourhood. Evidently, the economic condition of the villagers is quite stable in comparison to the earlier days. Consumerism is evident in every nook and corner of the village. Surprisingly, despite the close proximity to Visva Bharati, literacy rate is no better than the regular national index.

Diseases like diarrhoea, pulmonary tuberculosis, leprosy, epilepsy, jaundice etc. are prevalent in the village.

### Kapileswar of Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Kapileswar is a multi-caste village located on the periphery of Bhubaneswar with its popular and famous Kapilnath temple. This ancient temple, whose history is as old as the Lingaraj temple (or even older than that), makes this traditional village a suitable study



*Kapileswar temple - the village named after*

area for anthropological research. For the last nine decades, the village has been at the centre of the debate over whether it is the actual birth place of Gautama Budha, as it is interpreted as "Kapileswar, the actual Kapilavastu". The village has been taken up as the monograph "Scarcity and Opportunity in an Indian Village" by James M. Freeman which has been used as the baseline

information for the present study. The village was studied by the Harvard scholar in the early sixties, thereby giving the scope for the present team to explore the change. At present, since the village has been part of the Bhubaneswar urban setting, effort has been made to understand the process of change amongst the villagers. Since rural India is also evolving with social changes, and getting urbanized in many niches, it would be interesting to observe such transition in Kapileswar village. Further, the study would also initiate steps to understand the obstacles in the way of change. The village with nearly fifty percent population belonging to an endogamous group and confined to this locality alone would make this study anthropologically richer.

### **Kalamati of Cooch Behar District, West Bengal**

Kalamati of Bamanhat-II Gram Panchayat of Dinhat Block is an agrarian village of the Cooch Behar District (West Bengal); which is almost encapsulated within Indo-Bangladesh International Border. There are two Bangladeshi *Chhit-mahals* inside this village. A portion of Indo-Bangladesh railway track of earlier North East



*Jute processing in a Bengal village*

Frontier Railway has made its way through this village, on the southern side, towards Dhubri of Assam.

The population of the village was found to be 9971 in 2500 households (Census 2011). Rajbanshis and Muslims are the pre-dominant ethnic groups. Besides, there are other small ethnic groups like Santhals, Rabidas, Seal, Sonar, Malakar, Modok, Brajabashi etc. Agriculture is the primary economic activity of the village. Paddy and Jute cultivation is main source of livelihood. Simultaneously wage labour also provides support to the families to some extent. The village has schools of various levels for formal education. General trend in literacy is impressive. General health condition of the villagers is sound. Interestingly, apart from the common tropical ailments, frequency of hypertension, high blood sugar and other chronic diseases are low in this village. There is one PHC and 12 Anganwadi centers which have been functioning impressively.

### **Parsa of Madhubani District, Bihar**

The village Parsa comes under block and thana (Police Station) Rajnagar under Bhourpargana of Madhubani district, Bihar. It is surrounded by village Kaithahi towards North-West, Chowdhurana towards North-East, Koilakh to the East, Bhagawatipur to the South and Rampatti to the West. Altogether there are about 700 households in this village; these are distributed in seven hamlets - Uttarbaitola, Pubaitola, Pachhuaitola, Muslim tola, Kajiana, Nayatola and Goaltuli. Parsa is a multi-ethnic village. The Muslims of this village comprise four sub-groups i.e. Seikh, Jolaha, Dhunia and Faqir. The Rajput and Yadava are predominant amongst the Hindus. The other Hindu communities of this village are Nai, Dhobi, Sunri, Kurmi, Dhanuk, Bania, Teli, Chamar, Barhai, Sunar.

Earlier, agriculture was the backbone of the village economy. However, a major change has taken place in the cultivation practices. People have switched over from rain-fed mono-crop practice to horticulture. Seasonal cash crops are the major horticultural products of this village. In search of better scopes, seasonal migration to various industrial areas is quite common in Parsa.

A government run middle school and two Madrasas are accessible for elementary education at Parsa. Nearest High Schools are at Koilakh, and Rampatti, while students have to travel to Madhubani for college education. Madhubani Sadar Hospital is the life-line of the villagers in distress.

### **Sultana of Jaisalmir District, Rajasthan**

The village, Sultana was established sometime in 1262. It is on the western part of the international border, situated in the Jaisalmir district (Rajasthan). It is a multi-ethnic village with a population of 2594 residents in 475 households. Rajput is numerically the major ethnic group of this village. Other than Rajput, Meghwal, Jogi, and Bhil are the prominent ones.

During pre-independent era, camel rearing was the primary occupation of most of the families. People used to visit meadows around the Indus basin. Almost every household owns sizeable cultivable land. Since the society of this village had a background of earning livelihood through non-agricultural activities; they are found to be reluctant for cultivation. These lands are now being shared on lease with the people of neighbouring states like Punjab and Haryana having knowledge of cultivation of arid land. Tilling of land and crop production of the Sultana and surrounding villages is solely being operated by these migrants. Once, at some point of time, a sizeable number of camels were domesticated in this village and the entire social structure revolved around semi-nomadic lifestyle, which has now restructured into settled economic system. Moreover, continuous influx of people for agricultural purpose has emerged into a new form of social milieu in this village, during post-independent period.

### Sardi of Korea District, Chhattisgarh

The village Sardi is a multi-ethnic village of Korea district of Chhattisgarh, comprising of Rajwar, Harijan, Panika, Charwa, Pando, Munda and Oraon. Once it was an agrarian village that was surrounded by dense evergreen forest. This area is also naturally blessed with rich mineral stocks. Coal is the primary mineral resource. Gradual expansion of coal mines and with the establishment of ancillary units in and around this village has inevitably altered the topography as well as eco-settings of its earlier days. In addition, that has also brought a drastic change in the occupational pattern of the Sardi. In search of lucrative and secure sources of livelihood, villagers tend to shift from agro-based economic system to wage labour system. Almost 90% of the villagers depend on menial work for one square meal.

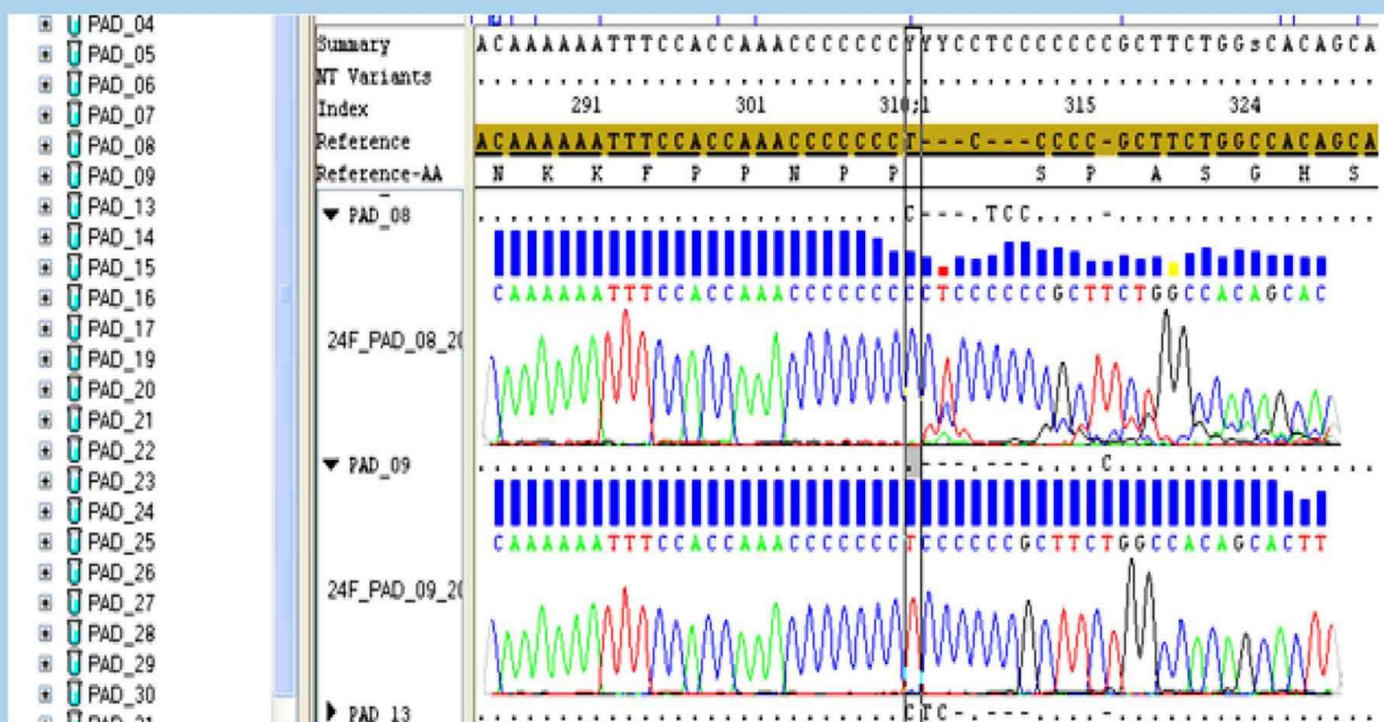
Female literacy rate is impressive among the new generation of this village.

### DNA Polymorphisms in Contemporary Indian Population

In understanding the molecular structure of the Indian tribes, scholars of the Survey have so far collected blood samples of eighty-one tribal communities across the country, of which, paternal lineages

of seventy-five communities, based on Y-SNP sequencing of about 4500 male samples, have been completed. Besides, maternal lineages based on mt-DNA sequencing of sixty communities comprising of about 7500 individual samples have also been analyzed. Genotyping of *Alu-INDEL* Polymorphism among five tribal communities (Jaunasri, Bhotia, Tharu, Raji, Bhoksa) of Uttarakhand has been completed. Massive screening of mt-DNA sequencing for 24 primer sets of Karen, Kani, Yanadi, Nayak, Padhar has been completed. Editing of sequenced data of Padhar, Koraga, Kattu Nayakan, Kutia Khond, Konda Reddy, Toda, Karen, Nayak and Jaunsari communities is in progress.

Based on the mt-DNA analysis, it is revealed that the Survey has identified, for the first time, a few maternal sub-lineages in the studied populations from our country, which are hitherto unreported. During the period of reporting, the Survey has collected DNA samples of another sixteen communities for further study. This genomic study will certainly help us to understand the genomic diversity of the tribal populations, as well as trace their origin and route of migration, besides the susceptibility of various diseases. The Survey has a plan to produce a documentary film encompassing the evolutionary history, genomic and cultural diversities of the people of India.



Padhar sample : Insertions at bp 310 and normal sequence

## People of India: Bio-Cultural Adaptation

Mitochondrial genome polymorphisms of altogether 400 samples (200 cases & 200 controls) were screened for molecular identification of bio-culture risk factors for Type-2 Diabetes among the Gangadikara Vokkaligas of Mysore City. Screen shot of edited sequence depicts normal sequence and mutation at bp1121 (C-T) among the diabetic patients.

## Community Genetics & Health

Sixteen tribal populations were screened for sickle cell anemia, thalassaemia and other abnormal haemoglobins in the high risk zone/populations all over the country. PCR based detection of HbAs products, prepared from the samples of Pahadi, Korwa, Abhujmaria and Kathakur of Central India has been finalized. Simultaneously, molecular identification of Sickle cell mutation by *D-del* digestion has been standardized with known carrier samples. About 200 samples have been screened for *B-A<sup>va</sup>* PCR product. *Xmn* and *G-Gamma* haplotype screening on the HbAs DNA samples is in progress.

Molecular structure of the HBB gene of the Nicobarese of Harmindar Bay, Little Andaman and the Car Nicobar Island, interestingly, reveals that the Nicobarese do not possess any HbE haemoglobin variant, in spite of having the Austro-Asiatic linguistic affinity. About 400 Nicobarese samples have been screened for the HBB

gene and about six percent of the samples were detected as the carrier of Beta-Thalassaemia alone that draws further attention for thorough screening strategies in collaboration with the local Health department, in view of prevention of such genetic disorder in future, in the islands.

Under the collaborative programme, the National Rural Health Mission, Odisha Sickle Cell Project and the Anthropological Survey of India has first time identified the rare abnormal haemoglobin variant namely, Hb-*Tianshui* (HBB: c. 119A>G) from India and also the first case of Hb-*Tianshui* from Southeast Asia which is co-inherited with Sickle Cell carrier (HbS). The case was studied from Deogarh district of Odisha. The only Hb-*Tianshui* carrier was reported from a Hans Chinese family of Tianshui city, Gansu province on the silk route of China.

## Physical Growth & Development of Children in North-East India: A Public Health Issue

Under this project a group of researchers, comprising of four members, completed tour to Pillangkatta village of Ri-Bhoi district in Meghalaya. Altogether 82 Garo households were surveyed and 74 boys and 74 girls were measured for anthropometric parameters. Apart from socio-economic information of each household; 24 hours food intake data of those households and individual immunization status was also collected.



Mutation at bp1121 (C-T) among the diabetic patients, Mysore city

# EVENTS

## Anthropology is for Humankind

Despite mounting load of assigned research activities under the 12th Plan programme of this survey is being devoted to organizing various community based activities in different parts of the country, in view of direct as well as instant benefit of the community.



*Health Awareness Camp at Darkot village, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand*

## Health awareness

Two health awareness camps were organized among the War-Khasi tribes of Tyrna and Tyniar village of East Khasi Hill District, Meghalaya in July and August respectively. Both the health camps received overwhelming participation of the local community. Apart from quick assessment of nutritional health of the participants of the survey, blood groups of the community people was ascertained instantly. Later, genetic card was distributed at the individual level, with information about the haemoglobin status as well as other haematological status, in terms of red blood cell mutation, thus screening through Capillary Electrophoresis.



*Nutritional Health Assessment of a Betta Kurumba girl*

Mass-awareness-cum-screening programme, for ascertaining the Sickle Cell Carrier and other abnormal Haemoglobins, was carried out among the Mariya Gond and Muria Gond communities in two

villages at Narayanpur and Orcha Block namely, Kurushnar (Orcha Block) and Binjali (Narayanpur Block) respectively of Chhattisgarh during 17th-18th July, 2014. Altogether 637 villagers were screened under this programme.

Simultaneously, health awareness and health check-up camp was organized among the Betta Kurumba tribal community of Wayand, Kerala on 24th August.

Two other health awareness camps were carried out among the Western Himalayan tribes. Altogether 368 Bhotia (sub group Shauka) of village Darkot, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand were covered during the camps held on 8-9 July, and later 471 Gujjar of Sirmor district, Uttarakhand were screened for status during 5-7 September, for rapid assessment of nutritional as well as haematological status of the people.

Thalassaemia Screening Camp was organized among the Santhals of Sarenga, Bankura District of West Bengal during 9th to 11th September, 2014.

## Capacity building

Tribal communities are known for their cultural uniqueness that had enriched the tangible and intangible cultural heritage. In reality, many of these are on the verge of extinction for several factors. Revamping those heritages through intense training programme-cum-workshops among the tribal communities, would not only restore many of their decaying traditions but also boost-up their pride in their heritage. Community participatory programme on various aspects would simultaneously retain guru-shishya parampara and also would enable them in livelihood generation.



*Anthropologist among the Tribes*

With this vision, interactive workshop on tribal crafts and craftsmanship was organized among two Tribal groups of Rajasthan at Western Regional Centre, Udaipur during 7- 13 September 2014. 14 Sahariyas (PVTG) craftsmen from Baran district and 30 Bhil craftsmen from Banswara district of Rajasthan were participated in the programme. A week long programme was inaugurated by Dr. T. C. Damor, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi Tribal University, Rajasthan.



*Ethno-medicine of the Santal : recapitulating theirs' knowledge system*

Training programme-cum-workshops on preparation of various types of traditional mat from date palm leaves was organized among the Santhals of Ramnagar Village, Birbhum, West Bengal during 7-20 July, 2014. All together 28 Santhal women actively took part in a hands-on training programme under the sincere supervision of a few resource persons of their own community. Since date palms are abundant in and around the village, knitting of mats, fancy bags, rain-hats, rain-shields and other handicraft materials made from the palm leaves were found viable for the village economy.

Performing art is one of the richest cultural identities of the tribal communities. Being one of the populated tribal communities of India, Santhal dance and song has its own inter-community identical gharanas, which is performed during various festivals and rituals of the community. From 18-27 July, 2014, a training programme-cum-workshop on traditional Santhali dance and music was organized for the Santhal of Kuotala (Pearson's Pally), Birbhum. Santhali participants of either gender were meticulously oriented with rhetoric of various dances which they usually perform during marriages, Baha, Karma and Sohrai festivals.

Tribal healing system encompasses a wide range of traditional medicines that is made of locally available natural (plant and/or animal) resources. However, advent of modern medicines and many inevitable anthropogenic factors are causing distances between medicine men and community members/villagers. Ethno-aetiology of many endemic diseases and pharmacopeia is gradually evaporating from the social surface before proper documentation

of that 'art of healing' and transfer of its knowledge to the next generation. Weeklong Training programme-cum-Workshop on ethno-medicine was organized among the Santhals of Ramnagar village, Birbhum (West Bengal) from 10-19 September, 2014, for filling-up the void between traditional healers and community members and encouraging them in the maintenance of community based registers of natural resources for medicinal use.

Under the supervision of Santhal traditional healers, that training programme was divided into two modules. Ethno-taxonomical identification of medicinal plants was in introductory session. Usage of those plants in preventing and healing diseases/ailments was in the second module.

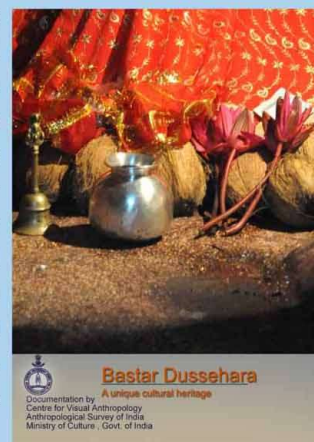
Training programme-cum-workshop for knowledge transfer to next generation on making of bamboo baskets, fishing traps, birds' cage, ornaments (garlands, earrings, hairclips, bangles etc.) was undertaken for the Santhals of Kuotala (Pearson's Pally), Birbhum (West Bengal) from 11-20 September, 2014. 30 Santhal unemployed youths, of both gender, were trained by five artisans, who demonstrated those trainees on how locally available natural resources/ minor forest produces can be meaningfully utilized in the income generation.

A five day long workshop on "Copper Craft of Tamta community of Almora, Uttarkhand" was organized in the North-Western Regional Centre, Dehradun from 14th July to 18th July 2014. Aim of the workshop was to safeguard the vanishing copper craft tradition of Almora and also to popularize it among the masses. Twelve craftsmen conducted workshop at the Dehradun office premise and demonstrated indigenous typology and technology of the metal (copper) crafts of the community. Mainly utensils, musical instruments, ceremonial posts and other various kinds of show-pieces were manufactured in that workshop.

### Documentation & Dissemination

Audio-visual documentation of traditional practices and dissemination of Indian cultural panorama through photographic exhibitions on various occasions took place with great enthusiasm.

The Dussehra and its mesmerizing impact on the entire rural community of Bastar, Chhattisgarh has been studied in-depth and has been documented through the anthropological lens. A recently released documentary film, "Bastar Dussehra: A Unique Cultural Heritage" is the first ever celluloid impression of this Survey. This film has a tri-language version i.e., Hindi, English and Halbi forwide dissemination of that age-old heritage of Central India.



**Bastar Dussehra**  
A unique cultural heritage  
Documentation by  
Centre for Visual Anthropology  
Anthropological Survey of India  
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India



Rain is the resource of water, source of life. Social importance of monsoon in India is better understood by the ways the felicitation practices in different cultures. In September, "Rain Festival" of Paliyan tribe of Theni District (Tamil Nadu), a very popular tribal festival of South India, was meticulously recorded through visual documentation.

The Survey has also organized exhibitions at Science City, Kolkata and Sodepur in September. The Jagdalpur Sub-Regional Centre organized an ethnographic exhibition "Bastar Lakatsava" in September. "Tribes of Eastern India"-photographic exhibition portraying tribal life and culture of eastern part of India was displayed at the pavilion of Bharatiyam Cultural Complex, EZCC, Kolkata from 6-9 August, 2014.

### International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Like yester years, the Anthropological Survey of India celebrated the "International Day of Indigenous People" on 9th August, 2014 at most of its' Regional/Sub-Regional Centres through various activities like panel discussions, seminars, health-awareness camps, photographic exhibitions and cultural performances of tribal communities.

### Adi Bimba / Bimb

"Adi Bimba/Bimb"-a series of combined kind of thematic discussions-cum-cultural events along with exhibition on tribal heritage was organized in association with the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Mins. of Culture, Kolkata in Kolkata and Port Blair. In Kolkata, "Adi Bimba" was convened at the Bharatiyam Cultural Complex of EZCC, Kolkata from August 6-9, 2014, to commemorate

the "International Day of the World's Indigenous People". A montage of performing arts became gorgeous by soulful presentation of various tribal troops from Sikkim, Tripura, Assam, West Bengal and Jharkhand. Later, the islands' session of "Adi Bimb"- tribal festival on the tribes of the A & N Islands was held during 29- 31 August, 2014 in Port Blair.

### Independence Day Celebration

The glorious 68th Independence Day was celebrated at the offices of all Regional/ Sub-Regional Centres. Shri G.S. Rautela, Director of this organization hoisted the tri-colour at the campus of ERC, Salt Lake. All the staff members of ERC and Head Office participated enthusiastically.

### Raj-Bhasha

Quarterly Hindi work-shop was organized at every Regional Centre. Hindi- Diwas/Pakhwara was observed in a befitting manner in all establishments of the Survey, across the country from 12-26 September. Apart from the routine activities in Raj-bhasha, two different Sangasthies (in Hindi) entitled "Rashtrabhasha Swaroop, Chunaution ebom Sambhabanain" and "Hindi ke prachar-prasar main anewali byabहारik samasyain" were organized on 28th August and 16th September respectively at the Conference Hall of the Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake, Kolkata. It's our immense pleasure to announce that the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata has secured 1st rank, amongst organizations which are functioning under the canopy of the TOLIC, Kolkata for implementation of Raj-Bhasha in office works.



*Sohrai (Santali) dance performing in Adi Bimba*



*Director addressing in the inaugural programme of Hindi Pakhwara*



### Guest Lectures

In view of refreshing as well as up-dating knowledge with recent trends in Anthropological Researches in India, the Survey has taken initiatives of organizing an in-house lecture series. Focal theme of initial phase of this series is to be highlighted on pre-

historic human civilization under the broad title, "Physical and Cultural Evolution: Human Signatures in Pre-history and Proto-history". First lecture of this series was held at Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata on 17th Septmber, 2014. Prof. Ranjana Roy, Rtd. Professor & Former Head, Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta was invited and she elucidated on the issue with thoughtful deliberation entitled, "Prehistoric Humankind".

A lecture on "Copper Craft of Uttarakhand" was organized in the North-Western Regional Centre, Dehra Dun. The lecture was delivered by Dr. R.S. Negi, Former Deputy Director (Cultural) who enriched the audience with age-old copper-craft tradition of this region.

### NEWS

#### Participation in Training Programmes in India/Abroad

Shri Sanjay Shukla, Assistant Keeper of the Central Regional Centre,

Nagpur had attended a training programme on "Exhibition Planning and Management" at Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad that was held from 11th to 13th August, 2014.



*Scholars at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, United States*

Dr. Harashwaradhana, Superintending Anthropologist (Physical), North-Western Regional Centre, Dehra Dun, Dr. B. N. Sarkar, Superintending Anthropologist (Physical), Head Office, Kolkata and Dr. J.S. Jaya Sankar Rao, Assistant Anthropologist (Physical), Southern Regional Centre, Mysore of the Anthropological Survey

of India were deputed to the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, United States and successfully completed the workshop-cum-training programme on "Essentials of Forensic Anthropology" under the sponsorship of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC-CIL) held from 18th - 22nd August, 2014.

Two young scholars, Smt. Minakshi Sharma and Shree Karuna Shankar Pandey of North-Western Regional Centre, Dehra Dun had attended the national training programme on "Conservation of Ethnographic Specimens", that was convened by Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), in Bhopal from 4th - 6th September 2014.

### Participation in National/International Seminar in India/Abroad

The Survey deputed Dr. Umesh Kumar, Human Ecologist to participate and present his research paper entitled, 'Biosphere Reserve of India : Concept and Issues' at a National Seminar organized by the Society for Resource Integration and Development Action (SRIDA), Jabalpur, held on 26th & 27th September, 2014.

Dr. Mithun Sikdar, a promising scholar of the Survey is the recipient of Young Scientist International Travel Grant Award of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. He had been invited by the Department of Paediatrics, University Medical Centre Maribor, Slovenia for presenting his research paper in the 13th International Congress of Human Growth and Clinical Auxology-ISGA, which was held at the Habakuk Congress Centre, Maribor (The European Centre of Culture, 2012) from 17th-20th of September 2014. His contribution was a new hypothesis on "Environmental Shock" on the increasing prevalence of metabolic diseases in the world, that was based on the thermal shock theory of thermodynamics in Physics. Dr. Sikdar's presentation was well applauded by the Scientists and Medical practitioners from different parts of the world.



Two scientific officers of this Survey attended a two-day workshop on "Endangered Tribal Languages" at the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore during 26th & 27th September, 2014.

### Research Personnel, represented Survey/GoI in India/Abroad

Shri Digvijay Nath Pandey, Sr. Ecologist and Head of Office of the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, represented Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India to the "Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)" that was held in the 28th Session of the World Intellectual Property Organization of United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland during 7-9 July, 2014.

Dr. B.N. Sarkar, Superintending Anthropologist (Physical), Head Office, Kolkata participated in the Inter-Ministerial Meeting held

in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 13th August, 2014 for a discussion on JPAC Missions in Assam and Nagaland.

As one of the Ex-officio members of Governing Body of the Andaman, Adim Janjati Vikas Samity, A&N Administration, Dr. M. Sasikumar, Deputy Director (Cultural), A&N Regional Centre, participated in the Executive Committee Meeting of AAJVS and Sub-Committee Meeting to review protocol proposal of the project "Circum Navigation of North Sentinel Island" and meeting for revision of ration articles (as dole) for Onge, a PVTG of A&N Islands.

### Executive Council Meeting

Two days Executive Council Meeting of this Survey for the second quarter was held during 24-25 September at the Conference Hall of Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake City, Kolkata.

### Superannuation

On reaching the age of superannuation, Shri Anstice Justin, Deputy Director (Cul.), Head Office, Kolkata (31st July, 2014), Shri Asok Mukherjee, R.A. (Linguistics), Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake (31st August, 2014) and Shri Tarun Kumar Sinha, Assistant, Head Office, Kolkata (30th September, 2014) have retired from active Government service on the dates as mentioned in the parentheses.

### Scholastic imprints

Abrar A, Rawat B, Harashawaradhana, Venugopal PN., Jokhan S., A Study of the Basic and Derived Anthropometric Indices among the Healthy Adults of Raji Tribe of Uttarakhand, India, *Afro Asian Journal of Anthropology and Social Policy*. 2014; 5(1): 66-72.

Kakali Chakrabarty, The Artisans and Their Art: A study of Cultural Syncretism among the weavers of West Bengal' in A.V. Arakari, Kakali Chakrabarty, Bibhu K. Mohanty (ed) *Syncretism in India: Multidisciplinary Approach*: 2013, Vol-II, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata.

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  2. Inaugural Function of International Day of World's Indigenous people by SRC, Mysore
  3. Panel discussion on Issues for Safeguard and Challenges of Indigenous Knowledge at ERC Salt Lake



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