

### About the book

The present book entitled 'Recent Discoveries and Perspectives in Human Evolution' is the outcome of the International conference panel BH13 'Exploring Human Origins: Exciting Discoveries at the Start of the 21st Century' organized by Dr A.R. Sankhyan under the auspices of the 17th IUAES in August 2013 at Manchester (U.K.). The scholars who attended the conference came from many countries and the contributions included here represent almost all continents. The book covers a wide range of topics of special interest to researchers in human evolution in the field of palaeoanthropology. They include new hominoid and hominin discoveries, ancient genomics, prehistoric archaeology, bio-stratigraphy, palaeoecology, palaeo-environments, Palaeo-habitats, ancient cranial surgical practices across continents and archaeo-astronomy. There are special critical observations on the prehistoric Denisovans, on the origins of the Andaman pygmies and Indonesian Hobbits, on Indian prehistoric rock art and concerns for the biosphere reserves. Overall, it also attracts social and cultural historians and general readers interested in the evolution of man and the expansion of humanity.

### About the Author/Editor

Dr Anek Ram Sankhyan earned his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees, and Ph.D. on the topic '*Pleistocene hominins and associated findings bearing on the evolution of man in South Asia*' from Panjab University Chandigarh. He is presently a Visiting Fellow in the Anthropological Survey of India, where he served for over three decades as a physical anthropologist and palaeoanthropologist, and held the charge of the Palaeoanthropology Section at its Head Office.

The focus of his researches have been in the Tertiary and Quaternary palaeontology, palaeoanthropology and prehistoric archaeology of the Siwalik Hills and the Central Narmada basin from where he reported rare hominoid and hominin fossil evidences and made a huge collection of the mammalian fossils and Palaeolithic artifacts housed at Kolkata and Dehra Dun.

For exchanging palaeoanthropological knowledge Dr Sankhyan has travelled widely, especially in his long trip in May-June 2006 under the *Gondwanaland Expedition* covering the countries and prehistoric sites falling in the Great African Rift Valley. In July 2007 he was invited to the *International Seminar on Southeast Asian Paleanthropology*, held in Indonesia, where he also visited the famous *Homo erectus* sites in Java and the Hobbit Liang Bua Cave on Flores Island. In early July 2009 he was invited to France by Henry de Lumley for a joint study and was shown various prehistoric laboratories, museums and cave sites, and soon after organized two conference panels on hominoid and hominin evolution in the 16th IUAES at Kunming, China. From there, he visited the Lufeng hominoid site and, from the IVVP at Beijing, the Zhoukoudian and Nihewan Basin sites. In August 2010 he got the opportunity under the SOSAA conference to visit Sri Lanka, and in July 2012 he founded the *Palaeo Research Society* to promote and popularize prehistoric researches and protect ancient heritage sites. In June 2014, he was invited to deliberate in a five-day international palaeoanthropological conference held at Tautavel in France.

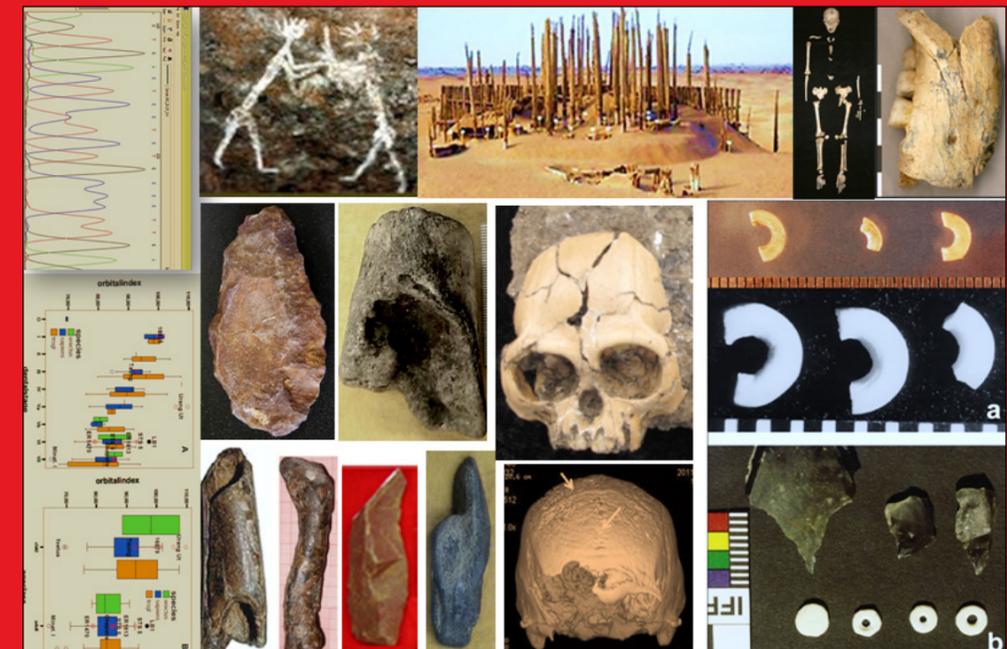
Over five dozen research papers— many in international journals of great impact— go to the credit of Dr Sankhyan. Besides, he has already edited four important conference volumes, viz., *People of India: Himachal Pradesh* (1996), *Human Origins, Genome and People of India* (2007), *Asian Perspectives on Human Evolution* (2009). In December 2014 he has submitted a book manuscript based on his Narmada findings, entitled 'Indian Origins' to the Anthropological Survey of India for publication.



# Recent Discoveries and Perspectives in Human Evolution

Papers arising from 'Exploring Human Origins: Exciting Discoveries at the Start of the 21st Century' Manchester 2013

Edited by  
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