



The Crisis of Palaeoanthropology in India in the Twenty-first Century

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ABSTRACT Questions raised by Indian and foreign palaeoanthropologists in the mid-twentieth century have undergone radical changes as scientific specialists in the disciplines of archaeology, human palaeontology and palaeo-ecology enter the twenty-first century. Among the catalysts of the new palaeo-anthropology in South Asia are the fall of the tradition concept of human races within systematic biology, the increase in the prehistoric human skeletal record, and a focus upon the biological changes taking place in populations of the Indian subcontinent as a consequence of the socioeconomic transition from hunting-foraging to food-production survival strategies beginning in the early Holocene. Problems with respect to training and research opportunities for young Indian scholars with commitments to palaeoanthropology are discussed.

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