

A NOTE ON INCAA

I

The Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA), the apex organization of the profession, owes its emergence to an initiative of the Council of the Indian Anthropological Society. On the 15th of May, 2001, the General Secretary of the Indian Anthropological Society (IAS), through “An Important Announcement” in the *Journal of the Indian Anthropological Society* (JIAS), communicated the proposal of its Council toward formation of the Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA), to act as the Nodal Agency at the national level, as well as to act as the Academy of Anthropologists, duly empowered to confer honorary recognitions.

Through a subsequent circular of November 14, 2002; in the same journal (JIAS, Vol.-37, No.-3), the General Secretary of the Indian Anthropological Society announced the formal commencement of functioning of INCAA with immediate effect. Accordingly, initiatives were afoot to draft the Memorandum of Association of INCAA.

During July 13 – 14, 2003, on the occasion of an academic discourse organized by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) at Bhopal, the assembled anthropologists discussed the draft constitution of INCAA threadbare and modified it as required.

Once the draft constitution was ratified by the assembly of anthropologists that gathered at Bhopal, the document was duly authenticated by them for further action toward necessary registration of INCAA as a Registered Society,

A drive was initiated then and there in order to enroll Founder Members of INCAA. It was further agreed upon by all concerned, if possible, to begin with the initiative of organizing the Indian Anthropological Congress. Prof. T. B. Subba of the Department of Anthropology, North-Eastern Hill University volunteered to give a proposal a serious try.

II

On March 12, 2004; INCAA emerged as a Society registered under West Bengal Societies Registration Act XXVI of 1961, (No. S / 1L /20556 of 2003 – 2004) with the following stated objects :

To create a network of professional anthropologists as a resource pool.

To promote excellence in anthropology.

To establish liaison with anthropological societies/associations and with other scientific bodies functioning in India and abroad, and to strengthen the existing anthropological societies/associations wherever they are in India and to set up Regional Chapters of the Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists.

To promote national and international level dialogue of the professionals on various pressing issues.

To promote anthropology in teaching, research, policy, and practical matters
To develop Information Management System (IMS) with a view to continuously update the national level information base for ready reference.

To express manifest concern regarding moral and ethical issues related to anthropology.

To organize advanced training in research and evaluation in anthropology for national level and state level workers, including those associated with NGOs, to the extent possible, in association with existing anthropological societies/associations.

To propagate and promote the specialty as well as quality of the ware of anthropology.

To spell out and publicize specific areas where application of anthropological knowledge seems indispensable.

To bring out a Newsletter for circulation of anthropological information.

To undertake any other activity as may be deemed incidental or conducive to attainment of the objects of the Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA).

III

The First Indian Anthropological Congress, as already indicated, was held during March 25-27, 2004 under the auspices of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, in collaboration with IGRMS, Bhopal, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi. The Focal Theme chosen for deliberations in the Congress was “Anthropology for the 21st Century : The Challenges Ahead”. The programme was inaugurated by Hon. Shri M. M. Jacob, Governor of Meghalaya and attended by about 250 delegates from different parts of the country. On this occasion, the Indian National

Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists brought out a commemorative volume : Anthropology for North - East India : A Reader.

The Governing Council of INCAA decided to organize Indian Anthropological Congress every third year and Inter-Congresses in Anthropology during the interim years. Accordingly, the First Inter-Congress in Anthropology was organized at Jhargram, the Registered Headquartes of INCAA, in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal during March 18-20,2005. “Social Unrest” was chosen as the Focal Theme for deliberations during the Inter-Congress. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Swapan Pramanik, Vice-Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore. Altogether 157 delegates from different States of India attended the programme.

The Second Inter-Congress in Anthropology was held at Mysore during February 21-23, 2006, under the auspices of the University of Mysore, Karnataka. The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal and the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal extended usual collaboration toward organization of the programme. Besides, Anthropological Association, Mysore, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi extended support toward organization of the programme. The Focal Theme for the event was “Tribe, State, and Empowerment : The Indian Experience”. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. J. Sashiprasad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore and the Key Note Address was delivered by Dr. B. D. Sharma, I A S, former Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Two hundred and twenty-two delegates attended the Inter-Congress.

The Second Indian Anthropological Congress was held at Pune, during February 21-23, 2007, under the auspices of the Maharashtra Association of Anthropological Sciences and the University of Poona. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal and Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata were among the several collaborating institutions that extended support. Support was also extended by the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal toward organization of the programme. “Human Development : Evolution and Vision” was the Focal Theme for deliberations in the Congress which was inaugurated by. Hon. Shri M. M. Lakhera, Governor of Mizoram. The programme was attended by about 250 delegates.

The Third Inter-Congress in Anthropology was held at Chandigarh, under the auspices of the Panjab University, Chandigarh and in collaboration with the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal during February 21-23, 2008. Support was also extended by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi and the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal.

Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman of the University Grants Commission inaugurated the programme, which was attended by about 270 registered delegates from different parts of

the country. “Man and Environment : The South Asian Perspective” was the Focal Theme for deliberations in the event.

The Fourth Inter-Congress in Anthropology was held at Hyderabad, under the auspices of the Central University of Hyderabad and in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, during February 21 – 23, 2009. It was at Hyderabad, that the Round Table of INCAA was held for the first time on the Focal Theme : Anthropology in India : Current Epistemology and Future Challenges. The Hyderabad Chapter of INCAA also introduced another item : to award the young anthropologists, on the basis of the quality of papers they have submitted to the Fourth Inter-Congress in Anthropology. About 250 delegates attended the programme. Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCA) organized the First Prof. B. M. Das Memorial Lecture in honour of its first Chairperson, Prof. Das through courtesy of Dr. Manjumala Das.

The Third Indian Anthropological Congress was held at Bhopal under the auspices of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya during February 21 – 23, 2010. ‘State, Development, and Communities’ was the Focal theme of the Congress. The programme was attended by about 200 hundred delegates.

The Fifth Inter-Congress in Anthropology was held in Kolkata during February 21 – 23, 2011; under the auspices of the Anthropological Survey of India. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya extended its usual collaboration toward organization of the event. ‘Anthropological Impact Assessment of Development Initiatives’ was the Focal Theme of the Inter-Congress in Anthropology. The programme was attended by about 300 delegates from all over the country.

Inter-Congress in Anthropology : 2012 is scheduled to be held at Lucknow during February 21 – 23, 2012; under the auspices of the Department of Anthropology, Lucknow University and in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Anthropological Survey of India, the Ethnographic and Folk Culture Society and the Indian Academy of Anthropological Research and Training. The Focal Theme of the Inter-Congress in Anthropology : 2012 is ‘Contested Identities in the Globalized World’. Through courtesy of some of his students and admirers, the first Professor S. C. Dube Memorial Lecture is scheduled to be held at Lucknow on February 22, 2012. The lecture will be delivered by Prof. Yogesh Atal and Prof. T. N. Madan has kindly consented to preside over the lecture programme. Besides, Prof. A. C. Bhagabati will deliver the Prof. B. M. Das Memorial Endowment Lecture on February 21, 2012; which will be presided over by Prof. Ravindra Kumar Jain.

IV

The Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA) has five affiliated bodies :

- (i). Anthropological Association, Mysore
- (II). Indian Anthropological Society, Kolkata
- (iii). The Maharashtra Association of Anthropological Sciences, Pune
- (iv). The Punjab Academy of Sciences, Patiala
- (v). The Society of Indian Medical Anthropology, Karnataka

Besides, it has six Regional Chapters, one each at Guwahati (Assam), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Kerala, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Mysore (Karnataka), and Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. As on February 15, 2012; the Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists has 600 Life Members (including Founder Members) and 22 publications. The List of Publications follows :

LIST OF INCAA PUBLICATIONS

1. Anthropology in North-East India: A Reader (2004). Ed. by Arabinda Basu, Biman K. Das Gupta and Jayanta Sarkar.
2. Social Unrest (2006). Ed. By Ajit K. Danda, Satyabrata Chakrabarti and Arabinda Basu.
3. Ageing Issues: Problems and Perspective (2006). Ed. by Prafulla Chakrabarti and Dipali G. Danda.
4. Anthropology of Management (2007). Ed. by Rajatkanti Das and Ajit K. Danda.
5. Some Dimensions of Human Biological Diversity among Indian Populations (2007). Ed. by I. J. S. Bansal and Amitabha Basu.
6. Methodological Questions in Social Anthropology (2007). Ed. by. Sanjay Roy and Ajit K. Danda.
7. Levels of Human Existence: Issues and Challenges (2008). Ed. by Abhijit Guha.
8. Essays on Cultural Anthropology (2009). Ed. by Ajit K. Danda, R. K. Mutatkar and Dipak K. Midya.
9. From Animality to Humanity: Anthropological Perspectives (2009). By N. SubbaReddy.
10. Studies on Bio-Medical Anthropology (2010). Ed. by R. K. Mutatkar, Ajit K. Danda and Vikas Bhatt.
11. Anthropology in India: Current Epistemology and Future challenges (2010). Ed. by Ajit K. Danda and Dipali G. Danda.

12. Museums in India: From Colonial Constructs to Post-Colonial Engagements (2010). By Kishor K. Basa.
13. On Medical Anthropology: India (2010). Ed. by Ajit K. Danda and Indu Talwar.
14. Environmental Issues and Other Essays (2010). Ed. by Ajit K. Danda and Indu Talwar.
15. Genetic Determinants of Health: The case of Foeto-maternal Blood Group Incompatibility effects in India (2011). By V. Bhalla.
16. State, Development, and Communities (2011). Ed. By Ajit Danda & Dipali G. Danda.
17. Tribe, State and Empowerment : The Indian Experience (2011) Ed. P. K. Misra, H. K. Bhat and Dipali G. Danda.
18. Issues on Social Transformation, Ethnicity and Identity Assertion Movements in North-East India : An Anthropological Overview (2012). By Annada Charan Bhagabati.
19. Many Faces of Development (2012). Ed. By Rajat Kanti Das, Dipak Kumar Midya.
20. Anthropological Impact Assessment of Development Initiatives (2012). Ed. Ajit K. Danda, Kishor K. Basa and Kamal K. Misra.
21. Maoism in India : Ideology and Ground Reality (2012). Ed. Abhijit Guha.
22. Anthropology Today and Tomorrow (2012). By Yogesh Atal.