

INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONGRESS : 2015

Organized by

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UTKAL UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR
&
SCHEDULED CASTE & SCHEDULED TRIBE RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE,
BHUBANESWAR (Govt. of Odisha)

Under the auspices of

INDIAN NATIONAL CONFEDERATION AND ACADEMY OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS
(INCAA)

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: 8.10.2014

Dear Colleague,

We are happy to announce that the Department of Anthropology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Research & Training Institute, Bhubaneswar under the auspices of Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA) will organize the Indian Anthropological Congress 2015 at Bhubaneswar during 21-23 February 2015. The Focal Theme chosen for deliberations during the Congress is ‘**Tribal Transformations in Contemporary India: Issues and Challenges**’. A write up on the Focal Theme is stated below. The Congress will organize a Round Table session, two Memorial Lectures, several Plenary / Technical / Scientific and Open Sessions. All fellow professionals are cordially invited to attend the Congress.

The Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA)

Established in March, 2004 as a registered body, INCAA is a pan-Indian organization which aims at functioning as a federating body of professional Anthropologists and active regional professional Anthropological bodies. INCAA provides a nodal platform for effective communication among professional anthropologists. Its primary role is to promote the cause of Anthropology and Anthropologists, particularly of those having association with India. INCAA aims at promoting Anthropology as a discipline, within as well outside the University system, particularly within governments and voluntary organizations and to ensure its effective interventions at the policy planning level on issues concerning interdisciplinary and holistic human development.

Department of Anthropology, Utkal University

Set up in 1958, the Post-Graduate Department of Anthropology, Utkal University is one of the oldest Departments of Anthropology in India. Prof. A. Aiyappan was the first Professor. It is one of the two Departments in the country to have been accorded the Centre of Advanced Study (CAS) status by the U. G. C. since 2009-10. It is the first Anthropology Department in the country to have been awarded the ASHISS grant by the UGC, during 2003-05. It received the Department of Special Assistance status (DSA Programme) by UGC for three successive phases from 1988 to 2007.

Six Professors were elected as President in the Anthropological and Behavioural Sciences session of the Indian Science Congress (ISCA) in various years. Faculty members have won prestigious fellowships at both national and international levels at various phases which include Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, Commonwealth Academic Staff Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Titular Development Post-doctoral ACU Fellowship, UK; Scholarship for Study Abroad by Govt. of India for doing Ph. D., Indo-French Cultural Exchange Programme.

At various phases the Department has collaboration with a number of international and national centres/organizations which include University of Sussex, State University of New York, Orissa

German Project, Indian Council for Medical Research, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Anthropological Survey of India, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal; Madurai Kamraj University etc.

The Department celebrated its Silver Jubilee Celebration in 1982 when Prof. L. K. Mahapatra was the Head of the Department. It celebrated the Golden Jubilee Celebration in 2007 –when Professor P. K. Nayak was the Head – by organizing an International Conference. Its faculty members are Members of various academic and professional bodies. The Department was awarded the CSIR-Kalinga-Haldane Chair in Human Genetics. The Department had organized the Centenary Celebration of the internationally acclaimed scientist late J. B. S. Haldane in 1992 and the Centenary Celebration of the First Odia Archaeologist Padmasri Paramananda Acharya in 1993. Last year the Department celebrated the 150th year of the discovery of first Paleolithic artifact in India by Robert Bruce Foote in 1863 along with IGRMS, Bhopal and Department of History, Sambalpur University.

Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Research & Training Institute, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

The Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Research & Training Institute (SCSTRTI), Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar is among the leading Tribal Research Institutes of the country.

SCSTRTI, a Directorate is a permanent institution under the control of ST & SC Development Department where the Director enjoys the powers of Heads of the Department. Being one of the premier institutes of the country devoted to research and training on tribal matters, their cultures and development, it has grown into greater heights. The Institute has been conferred the status of Nodal Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) by Ministry of Tribal Affairs Govt. of India.

Its activities include

- Selected Tribal Communities Recording Population Decline in 2001-Census,
- Setting up of a GIS for Micro Project, Chuktia Bhunjia Development Agency.
- Education of Tribal Girl Child Problems and Prospects,
- Impact of Primary Education Programme DPEP/SSA,
- Disease Profile of the Tribes of Odisha with special focus on PTG,
- Development Induced to Displacement and the Tribals,
- Data-base on Dev. Project and Displaced Tribals in Odisha.
- Creation of a Data- base on STs of Odisha from 1961-2001.

There is an interesting Tribal Museum. It is a specialized ethnographic museum with 5850 tribal artefacts including 3000 rare objects. These have been displayed in five air conditioned Display Halls. Life size statues of male & female of PVTGs have also been displayed.

Besides, there is an open air display of shrine, crafts of different tribes and huts of five important tribal communities. The premises of museum complex have been aesthetically laid out with trees and plant species of indigenous varieties.

Last dates for the submission of papers:

Abstract of paper (not exceeding 350 words) from the prospective participants should reach the undersigned (osincaa2015@gmail.com),(+91-9438423366) with a copy to the Member-Secretary, INCAA (Prof. Kishor K. Basa) (msincaa2015@gmail.com) (Mob +91-8895615636) by November 30, 2014. The last date for receipt of full paper is December 20, 2014.

Local Hospitality:

The Organizing Committee will be happy to extend local hospitality (breakfast, session tea, lunch and dinner on all days of the conference for the out station delegates and lunch and session tea on all three days of the Congress to the local delegates.) to every registered delegates.

Accommodation:

Modest accommodation (double occupancy for seniors and double/multiple occupancy in the Guest House, Budget Hotels and Research Scholar Hostels for others) will be provided to all out station participants from the evening of February 20, 2015 till morning of February 24, 2015. Accommodation for accompanying persons (aged above 5 years) shall be charged at the rate of Rs.1,000 per person per night. In view of limited availability of accommodation (only about 250-300 out station delegates can be accommodated), the accommodation shall be booked on the basis of priority of the date of registration.

Bhubaneswar Weather

Generally Bhubaneswar gets pleasant climate in day time. However, light warm clothing in evening may be needed.

Registration

Registration is compulsory for all delegates, including INCAA Governing Council Members. No spot Registration will be acceptable, without prior authorization of the Organizing Committee. Registration Fee shall be included Registration Kit, modest twin sharing accommodation, and board during the days of Congress.

Categories	Nature of INCAA Membership	Amount in Rupees (Received before November 30,2014)	Amount in Rupees (Received after December 1 2014 till January 31 2015)
Category I	INCAA MEMBER (Non-Local)	Rs. 1,500.00	Rs. 1,800.00
Category II	Non-INCAA Member	Rs.1,600.00	Rs.2,000.00
Category III	INCAA Member (Local)	Rs. 1,000.00	Rs. 1,250.00
Category IV	Students (Local and Non Local)	Rs. 750.00	Rs.1,000.00
Category V	Accompanying Persons (aged above 5 years)	Rs. 1,000.00 per day	Rs. 1,000.00 per day

The Bank Account number will be informed shortly.

The Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA), established in March, 2004 as a registered society, is a pan-Indian organization which aims to function as a federating body of professional Anthropologists and activate regional professional anthropological outfits. Through its annual events, INCAA provides a platform for effective communication among professional anthropologists. Its primary role is to promote the cause of Anthropology and Anthropologists, particularly of those having association with India. INCAA aims at promoting Anthropology as a discipline, within as well outside the University system, particularly within governments and

voluntary organizations, and to ensure its effective interventions at the policy planning level on issues concerning interdisciplinary and holistic human development.

Travel Support:

Delegates are requested to arrange their Travel Allowances from their own University/Institute/Department. However, we are trying to arrange some funds towards Travel expenses.

Focal Theme of the 2015 Congress:

Tribal Transformations in Contemporary India: Issues and Challenges

The very definition of tribe in the Indian context appears as if an uneasy transplant in her ethno-cultural realities. In comparison, 'tribal' or 'tribe-like' is relatively more comprehensive in perspective.

In anthropological parlance, appreciation of a theoretical concept: 'enculturation' is considered crucial toward understanding the basic processes that lead to the personality formation of individuals and groups. Despite recognition of the fact that enculturation as such could as well have lasting impacts fairly appreciable through transactional analysis, in the contexts of working out strategies of development and transformation following the Western initiatives, 'acculturation', 'assimilation', and 'integration' by and large have been chosen as the only viable set of alternatives. What is often ignored is the fact that all of the three percepts emphasize the end-results and not necessarily the phases or processes of transformations.

Tribal transformations through phases of development in contemporary India mostly suffered from the indignity of sub-optimal achievement records primarily for their over-dependence on the borrowed top-down approach that never grew out of India's own experiences. When more than eight per cent of India's total population belongs to tribal communities, no doubt they deserve serious attention.

The top-down approach suffers from the bias of looking at tribals as a blanket category, as if all segments of tribal populations are equally prepared for adoption of any innovation they happen to come across. Realities of contemporary tribal societies in India evidently suggest otherwise. The results so far achieved, therefore, have been inevitable: from smartly streamlined projects we ended up with chaotic outcome.

What appears essential even before planning development initiatives, is to make a comprehensive careful assessment of ground realities as they exist in tribal India.

On the basis of distribution of principal basis of livelihoods, tribals in India demonstrate an enormous range from gatherers-hunters through pastorals and food-growers to practitioners of post-institutional economy. This very range suggests phases of transformations based on adoption of technology and consequent socio-cultural differentiation.

What appears essential, therefore, is to cultivate a different kind of sensitivity, initially for appropriate understanding of the extant of variety of tribal livelihood patterns and then to formulate adoption strategies with special emphasis on felt-needs of the concern people.

Needless to say, we have rightly moved away from the colonial concept of the tribal people as a romanticised essence of timeless and changeless entities. On the other hand, transformations and changes are as important an issue among the tribal people as continuity of their intangible cultural heritage. Thus, in twenty-first century it remains a big challenge as to how the tribal transformations in contemporary India will result in the tribal people considering themselves as important partners in the march towards an inclusive society and sustainable development.

Some of the broad themes for Technical Sessions are as follows:

The following contains some broad themes of the Indian Anthropological Congress, 2015.

- Paradigms of Tribal Development, Strategies and Practices
- Development, Displacement and Rehabilitation Policies: The Tribal Situations
- Legislation and Governance
- Healthcare status and problems of hunger, malnutrition and morbidity in Tribal Communities
- Education for Tribal Communities: Issues and Challenges
- Issues and Problems of Tribal Women and Children
- Problems of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
- Molecular Anthropology and Genomic Disorders
- Museum and Tribal Cultures
- Intangible Cultural Heritage of Tribal Communities: Documentation, Conservation and Dissemination
- Tribal Movements in Contemporary India
- Folk, Tribal and Rock Art
- Ethnography of Tribal Material Cultures: Implications for Archaeology
- Linguistic Diversities among Tribal Communities
- Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship among Tribal Youth and Women
- Nature and Culture: The question of forest and tribal communities
- Changing economies and tribal communities in an era of globalisation
- Archaeological Anthropology
- Linguistic Anthropology

With greetings and warm wishes



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