



Indian Anthropological Association NEWSLETTER

Inaugural Issue; September 2010

The Indian Anthropological Association (IAA) is the representative body of professional anthropologists in India. Since its inception in 1964, IAA has been untiringly pursuing the goal of making Anthropology meaningful in public life. *Indian Anthropologist*, the official journal of the Association has reflected the anthropological insights on complex social processes with implications for development policy and practice. The IAA has five regional chapters to carry out its goal and highlight regional concerns across India.

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The Indian Anthropological Association has been unanimously elected by the members of World Council Anthropological Associations (WCAA) to be its member. WCAA is a network of Anthropological Associations from different countries all over the world committed to the cause of furthering the interest and presence of Anthropology in the contemporary world. SM. Patnaik, President, IAA is representing the Association at the biennial meeting of WCAA at Maynooth on August 23-24, 2010.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, IAA

In an association like IAA, where members are spread all over India and abroad, a newsletter becomes an easier way to keep in touch. It connects not only the members through a meaningful dialogue but also anthropologists from different associations. Till now the 'Professional News' section of *Indian Anthropologist* was serving this purpose, but to make the forum more interactive and relevant for members, the need for a newsletter was felt by IAA. Our editorial team has done a commendable job in bringing it out in record time. I am confident that the newsletter will spread the IAA message of creating an 'anthropology for society' with deep commitment to quality and excellence without losing the human touch. I hope the members will find the various columns meaningful in their personal and academic lives as anthropologist. The newsletter will also serve to connect those who are not members but well wishers of IAA from different parts of the world especially from South Asia.

Soumendra M. Patnaik
Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

EDITOR'S NOTE

The discipline of anthropology in South Asia has had a chequered history, with few attempts to map out the continuities and disjunctions that characterize the theoretical articulations and disciplinary practices. The richness of the South Asian experience and its marginal representation in world anthropology is a cause of concern as well. The association strives to strengthen deliberations on these lines and thus contribute to the rich field of South Asian Anthropology through its various processes. To further this cause the association has decided to commence a biennial newsletter.

This newsletter is an attempt to connect with each other through knowledge sharing and networking. The idea is to provide an accessible platform to share information on the subject as well as foster a community feeling and encourage dialogue. The subsequent issues of the newsletter shall carry more contributions from departments, anthropologists and students of Anthropology.

EVENTS IN THE PAST

1. In the 16th World Congress of The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) held at Kunming, China, July 27- 31 2009, Prof. Subhadra Channa, University of Delhi, delivered a keynote address on 'Gender Studies'. Prof. Channa also organized a panel on 'Women Headed Households Social and Economic Significance' and co-organized a session on 'Women's Knowledge and Environment Related Skills'.

Dr. Sunita Reddy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, too, organized a panel on 'Disaster and Development: An anthropological enquiry from Policy to Practice' at the congress

2. North East India Studies Programme (NEISP), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, organized an international symposium and workshop on Intercultural Dialogue between North East India and South East Asia from 17 to 20 March 2010. Exploring cultural connectivities and shared histories between the peoples of North-East India and South East Asia, the symposium intersected different disciplines of history, anthropology, sociology, economics, political science, literature and arts
3. A National Seminar on Social Research on North East India: Issues and Challenges, was organized by Dr. Nilika Mehrotra on behalf of NEISP at JNU on 25-26 February, 2010. The seminar covered various themes on trajectory of the growth of the discipline of social anthropology, methodological issues and the urgent need for an agenda for research in North East India.

FORTH-COMING EVENTS BY IAA

1. IAA Announces the first Young Anthropologist's Meet on South Asia to be held in September 2011. Given the vastness of the sub-continent and the need to connect with each other within anthropology, the meet will be exclusively held for student anthropologists. The hope is to turn it into a recurring event with the students spearheading the operations. It will serve as a platform for young anthropologists to interact, share ideas and learn from each other. Applications and expressions of interest are invited from young anthropologists. For more information write to Supriya Singh at supriya7979@yahoo.co.in
2. IAA announces a national Seminar on Civil Society Initiatives and Social Movements in February 2011. The second JS Bhandari Memorial lecture shall be organized during this event.
3. IAA is finalising a directory of its members for easy reference and access to practicing anthropologists across the country. It will be published in October 2010. Kindly send us your details by filling up the form available on the IAA website, [http:// www.indiananthropology.org/ Contact.asp](http://www.indiananthropology.org/Contact.asp)

DEBATES AND TRENDS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

(This section is an initiative to discuss any topic of contemporary relevance espousing the role of anthropology in public life. Members are invited to contribute in not more than 400 words)

Environment and Human Development

The basic needs of life- food, shelter and clothing dictate the lives of the millions of poor in our country. With more than 60 % of its population dependent on agriculture directly, and taking into account the jobs created by the agribusiness, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors, it will not be an exaggeration to say that 80-90% of the jobs are based on natural resources. Needless to say that jobs end up high on the list of priorities of the poor. Therefore livelihood security is intrinsically linked to environmental goods and services. Ecology is then easily the top priority since it provides sustenance and is a dependable source of millions of poor across the country. But do we see it as one?

-Supriya Singh

NEWS FROM REGIONAL CHAPTERS

1. Dr. Mini Bhattacharya, Regional Secretary IAA (East), shall organize a seminar on "Towards an Anthropology of North East India" in the summer of 2011. Circulars shall be issued from the regional headquarters, Gauhati University, Assam.

YOUNG ANTHROPOLOGISTS' CORNER

(Young Anthropologists are invited to send in a writeup of about 200 words on a issue of their choice on the current state of affairs. It should be an opinion piece locating the discipline's influence on the personal and academic self.)

Anthropology As I Understand it

Anthropological training has helped me in understanding the finer nuances of various disciplines like Economics, Geography and even natural sciences by grounding these subjects in the human realm. Many times in the field as well as off it, understanding the concepts of different disciplines was easier whenever I was able to ascribe reasons to the various actions and theories, in my effort to relate. Supriya Singh

Anthropology as a discipline is the most holistic and inclusive with porous boundaries in both its nature and scope. Personally I have learnt a lot from the subject with respect to other's view point, cosmology and subjective ideas pertaining to people around me. It offers never ending opportunities to understand the various aspects of mankind. Chitra, Doctoral Fellow, University of Delhi

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

1. JSTOR has expressed interest in and committed to digitizing all the volumes of Indian Anthropologist (IA). Soon, IA shall have an international presence and greater outreach.
2. The IAA has restored its ties with the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI). IAA used to receive the Journal of RAI, *Man*, in exchange for a copy of its own journal, Indian Anthropologist. This practice was discontinued in 1986. Revival of the same is not only historic but useful for those with research interest in *Man*. Currently these volumes are available with the Headquarters and shall soon be transferred to the Central Science Library, University of Delhi for easy Reference.
3. The IAA has revived its Distinguished Fellows Programme. Discontinued since 1986, the programme shall confer fellowship to distinguished anthropologists based on the recommendations of the Academic Advisory Council, constituted by the general body. The current Distinguished Fellows are
B.K. Roy-Burman Leela Dube T.N. Madan
SC. Tiwari D.P. Mukherjee Sachhidanand
4. Announcing joint Conference of Commission on Urban Anthropology and Commission on Human Rights (IUAES) at Kolkata, February 14-16, 2011.

*Theme: 'Mega Urbanization and Human Rights: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities'.
Last date for abstract: 30th September, 2010*

For more information write to urbanhrconference2011@gmail.com or Prof. Buddhadeb Chaudhuri (e-mail: buddhadebc@gmail.com).

5. IUAES conference Organising Committee welcomes proposed panels for the joint conference of the IUAES, Australian Anthropological Society (AAS) and the Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/ New Zealand (ASAANZ) to be held from July 5-9, 2011 at the University of Western Australia

Call For Panels is open until October 22nd, 2010

Send panel proposals to: conference2011-anthropology@uwa.edu.au

6. Prof. K.K. Mishra joined as a Director of 'Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal.
Phone: 91-755-2661458 (O)
7. School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), began a new full time course in MA Social Anthropology in face-to-face mode at its Delhi Campus. For more information contact
Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapoor, Director, SOITS IGNOU; e-mail: nandini@ignou.ac.in;
Phone: 011- 29571115
8. The School of Social Sciences at IGNOU has also commenced courses in Anthropology in the distance learning mode. For details contact Dr. Rashmi Sinha, Associate Professor at dr_rashmi_sinha@yahoo.com
9. School of Human Studies and School of Human Ecology at Ambedkar University, Delhi began interdisciplinary courses encompassing anthropological perspective to be used in teaching and research programme with anthropologists appointed in various disciplines such as gender studies, development studies and environmental and Ecological Studies



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