

UIAF Newsletter

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UIAF

United Indian Anthropology Forum



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From the President's Desk



The United Indian Anthropology Forum (UIAF) is a dynamic and interactive platform to bring together Anthropologists engaged in different fields in India. It came into being to protest against the undemocratic and unilateral decision of the IUAES Executive to shift the venue of the World Congress 2023 from KISS, Bhubaneswar to somewhere else. Many right-thinking Anthropologists formed a WhatsApp group on 7th August 2020 in a bid to generate and mobilize opinion in favour of holding the Congress at KISS. This movement, initiated to right a wrong, assumed in a short time the larger purpose of establishing an academic forum, namely The United Indian Anthropology Forum (UIAF). Eventually, the Forum got registered on 18th November 2020. It is now a vibrant composite of experienced as well as young, promising anthropologists. It promises to offer a very inclusive and vibrant space for the exchange of ideas and thoughts of all hues – conservative and classical on the one hand and progressive and radically new on the other. The outcome of this exercise which the UIAF envisages will be opening new areas of interdisciplinary research and making Anthropology more meaningfully grounded in the richly variegated cultural terrain of India and the world over. Learned invited lectures, panel discussions and symposiums which the UIAF has been organizing will catalyse the growth and vitalization of Anthropology not just as a discipline, but as a new epistemic force.



When we all forged ahead in a spirited manner, we suddenly lost Professor Vinay Srivastava, one of the distinguished Anthropologists of India. During the formative stage, Professor Srivastava used to give me many useful tips for making the UIAF more vibrant. The COVID pandemic claimed such a fine scholar and nice human being. His wonderful lecture on “Multiculturalism” on UIAF platform will be ever remembered by us. Even as we feel his deep loss, we will cherish him in our memory and continue to feel inspired by his great work.

The World Anthropological Congress 2023 is going to be hosted by the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed-to-be-University partnering with the United Indian Anthropology Forum and in collaboration with the Departments of Anthropology of three universities, namely the University of Delhi, Sambalpur University, Odisha, and Utkal University Odisha. This momentous event is slated for 15-19 January 2023. The ensuing World Anthropological Congress will be an energetic beginning of the UIAF in its journey into a richer realm of Anthropological studies and consolidation of an academically rewarding fraternity. Please come forward to be part of UIAF and give your scholarly inputs by becoming a registered member of UIAF.

It is very heartening to find the first issue Newsletter brought out by the Forum for the dissemination of information about the scholarly activities of the Anthropology fraternity of India. I am sure, it will go from strength to strength.



Professor Deepak Kumar Behera
General President, UIAF



Messages from the UIAF Patrons



Professor R. K. Mutatkar
Former Chairperson,
Dept. of Anthropology, Pune University
Founder Director of Inter-disciplinary
School of Health Sciences, Pune University

Greetings and Best Wishes on the launch of the Newsletter of UIAF. This is an important landmark in formalizing the objectives of United Indian Anthropology Forum.

UIAF was established in view of the paradigm shift from 'Anthropology in India' to 'Indian Anthropology' to study 'Our People' and their aspirations, in preference to studying 'Other People' by the western scholars, during the period of colonization. UIAF is not only about people of Indian origin but may focus on Indian civilizational perspectives about humanity.

The Constitution of India has been carefully drafted to represent the spirit of ancient Indian Civilization manifested by the pursuit of Truth, Secular Inclusiveness and responding to People's Will. Indian anthropological insights are visible in the texts of Vedas, Upanishads, Epics, Buddhist, Jain, Islamic, Sikh, Zoroastrian as well as Islamic and Christian philosophies, which provide a distinct identity to Indian Civilization. In the University system, the studies get divided into Indology, Archaeology, Linguistics, Bio-Socio-Cultural Anthropology, etc. In research institutes of the AnSI, ICMR, ICSSR, ICAR, ICHR, ICCR, CSIR, FRI, TRIs etc. and NGOs, anthropologists address their human focussed knowledge to the respective institutional agenda.

UIAF Newsletter will be a medium to facilitate the networking dialogue of all the anthropologists towards human well-being.



Professor Promode Kumar Misra
President, Anthropological Association
Mysore, Karnataka

It is a truism that the Social Sciences in India, especially Anthropology, has been under the domination of the western scholarship for at least two hundred years. Although an ancient civilization with tremendous continuity in thought, traditions, India has achieved excellence in a variety of fields. This realization has been simmering in reflective minds for quite some time. It had to burst open someday. It was triggered by the false assumption that the colonial hangover would go on as ever. That assumption was shattered, and a new star was born in the shape of the United Indian Anthropology Forum. In a very short time, the energy generated by the Forum is amazing and reassuring. It is now a registered body and embodies active and enthusiastic anthropological fraternity. It has already organized several successful programmes and laid down a future road map that will certainly reinvigorate anthropology in India. Starting a Newsletter of its own is the right step in that direction. The future looks promising.

The UIAF on the March

The United Indian Anthropology Forum (UIAF) is a dynamic and interactive platform for Anthropologists in India. It includes budding, young, senior, and veteran anthropologists across different areas of specializations, and coming from all regions of India. The UIAF has been envisaged as an online community that strives for an enriching exchange of views and consolidation and application of knowledge.

Vision and Mission: The UIAF functions with a vision to pursue anthropology as a way of life, reach out and engage with the people, search for truth, respect diversity, impress upon people-centred governance, uphold humanism, and be a catalyst for positive change.

The UIAF is intended to provide a unique platform, mainly through virtual mode, with an inclusive and participatory approach, for the reinforcement of anthropological approaches and perspectives in the contextual and culture-specific understanding of the everyday human experience by focusing on the following tasks:

- Popularizing and promoting the discipline of anthropology at the institutional level
- Enhancing the career prospects, and establishing the identity of anthropology on firmer grounds and facilitating the exchange of views and ideas among anthropological fraternity
- Encouraging debates and discussions on the emerging facets of knowledge
- Creating and disseminating anthropological knowledge
- Acting as a training ground for the translation of this knowledge into policy formulations and practical applications for a better human society and environment

Thus, the UIAF is envisaged to play a proactive role in accomplishing its disciplinary commitment to its mission and revitalising Anthropology across India.

Origin and Context: The need for a Forum came up in the context of a call to the Anthropology Fraternity in India for upholding the spirit and tenets of Anthropology, responding to the crisis of sorts concerning the

organisation of the World Anthropology Congress 2023 in India. In the process, two distinct groups of Anthropologists namely the Senior and the Young Anthropologists emerged, only to be joined with a third group of Practising Anthropologists, and later by a group of budding anthropologists, all becoming active in the What's App social media. The different Anthropology Associations and Organisations in India had also joined to lend their support in a unison voice to come out of the crisis. The interactions among the members of the group led to the idea of the formation of a United Indian Anthropology Forum. This was followed by a process of inviting anthropologists to the Forum from all across India for online registration. Though it sprang up spontaneously over a particular crisis, it brought together not only the individual Anthropologists across India but also the existing Anthropological Associations ultimately emerging as a vibrant academic forum. Thus, the crisis that led to the idea of the Forum was a blessing in disguise to unite the Indian Anthropologists across specialisations, regions, and age groups for a just cause which, during a short span of time, has emerged as a proactive Anthropological to go beyond the immediate target of organising the World Anthropology Congress 2023 (WAC 2023).

The UIAF is cognizant of the existing anthropological bodies at various levels and acknowledges their immense contribution in promoting research and academic excellence. We wish to partner with them in the pursuit of their stated objectives. Common concern for all of us is to play a fundamental and constructive role in strengthening anthropological identity and in popularising the subject. This Forum professes to maintain its autonomy at the national level while building bridges with all other existing platforms. This is indeed crucial for the rejuvenation of the discipline. The ideological purpose is to realize the true potential of the discipline by raising a collective voice in unison for the overall cause of Indian Anthropology.



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October 2020

1. 31st October 2020– Launching of Official Website of UIAF and Invited Special Lecture

- Commemorating the National Unity Day, the official website of the UIAF was launched with the introductory remarks and welcome address by Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera, the General President of UIAF
- Prof. R. K. Mutatkar, Retired Professor, Department of Anthropology, Poona University, Maharashtra, and Prof. P. K. Mishra, President, Anthropological Association, Mysore, Karnataka, the Patrons of the UIAF jointly launched the Website.
- Moderating the launching of the Website, Dr. Praveen Hoogar, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Centre for Bio-Cultural Studies, Manipal Academy of Higher

The Crisis, Critical Junctures and Milestones in the Journey of the UIAF:

Education, Manipal presented the Website pages and explained its scope and future development.

- This was followed by the First Special Invited Lecture on Indigenous Communities and Formal Education in a Changing World (With Special Reference to Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) by Dr Christine Finnan, Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, College of Charleston, South Carolina, USA, and former Fulbright Scholar at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences.
- The event came to an end with the concluding remarks and vote of thanks by Prof. S. Gregory, Member Secretary, UIAF

Link:

<https://www.anthropologyindiaforum.org/events>

November 2020

1. 16th November 2020 – Lecture on Multiculturalism

- The Online Lecture on the theme of Multiculturalism was delivered by late Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, the then Director, Anthropological Survey of India, and former Professor of Anthropology, University of Delhi, marking the International Day of Endurance and Tolerance.
- Prof. P. C. Joshi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi chaired the session.

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/nAqnU1YN1-o>

2. 30 November 2020 - Contemporary Crisis in Indian Anthropology and the Way Forward

- An Online Symposium was organised on the theme of Contemporary Crisis in Indian Anthropology and the Way Forward, with seven eminent anthropologists as panellists
- The Panellists included the following:
- Prof. R. K. Mutatkar, UIAF Patron, and Former Professor, Department of Anthropology, Poona University, Maharashtra
- Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera, General President, UIAF and Former Vice-Chancellor, Sambalpur University

- Prof. S. Gregory, the Member Secretary, UIAF and Former Professor, Kannur University,
- Prof. P. C. Joshi, Ex-Officio Vice President UIAF and Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi.
- Prof. Shalina Mehta, Vice President General, UIAF, and Former Professor, Panjab University
- Prof. A. B. Ota, IAS (Rtd), Ex-Officio Vice President UIAF, and Director and Special Secretary, SCSTRTI and State Tribal Museum, Bhubaneswar
- Prof. Arbind Sinha, Ex-Officio Vice President UIAF, and Advisor, MICA, CDMC.
- The Symposium was moderated by Prof. K. K. Mishra, Former Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University of Culture

Note: The proposal for this on-line symposium was mooted by Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava. He was to initiate the discussion with his opening remarks, but most tragically we lost him to COVID -19 on 23rd December 2020. UIAF mourns his sad demise and colossal loss to the fraternity and to the discipline of Anthropology.

Link: Part 1 - <https://youtu.be/GpLo2hcdVsc>
Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/XJZoRE0bcM>
Part 3 - <https://youtu.be/SYekA-bMLY>
Part 4 - <https://youtu.be/iGAqIFDZdKA>

December 2020

1. 13th December 2020: On-line Symposium on Biological Anthropology in the 21st Century.

An On-line Symposium was organised on the theme of Biological Anthropology in the 21st Century, with eight senior and young panellists, specialised in physical anthropology and with Prof. A. Papparao, one of the Honorary Members of the UIAF Governing Council and Former Professor, Sri Venkateswara University, as the moderator.

The Panellists included the following:

- Prof. Gautam Kshatriya, Former Professor, University of Delhi
- Prof. Mitashree Mitra, Ex-Officio Vice President, UIAF, and former Professor, PT. Ravishankar Shukla University
- Prof. S. Jibonkumar Singh, Ex-Officio Vice President, and Professor of Anthropology, Manipur University
- Prof. Subho Roy, Member Secretary, Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA), and Professor of Anthropology, University of Calcutta
- Prof. K. N. Saraswathy, Professor of Anthropology, University of Delhi
- Dr K.K. Reddy, Asst. Professor, Department of Anthropology, Sri Venkateswara University, Andhra Pradesh
- Dr Sudipta Ghosh, Asst. Professor, Department of Anthropology, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU)
- Dr. MithunSikdar, Superintending Anthropologist, Anthropological Survey of India

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/iGAqIFDZdKA>

2. On 20th December 2020-lecture Play on the Mother Ground

- To mark the International Day of Human Solidarity, an Invited Online Lecture was organised on the theme of Play on the Mother

Ground by Dr. Zazie Bowen of Australian National University

- Prof. Vijoy S. Sahay, one of the Honorary Members of the UIAF Governing Council, and former Professor of Anthropology, Allahabad University, and the Chief Editor of the International Journal, The Oriental Anthropology was the moderator

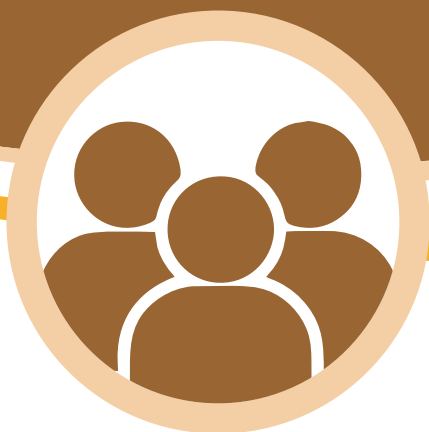
Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/-tnjjSxUTh8>

5. 26th December 2020: Online Symposium on Recent Advances in Archaeological Anthropology in India.

Online Symposium on the theme of Recent Advances in Archaeological Anthropology in India was organised with seven senior and young Anthropologists specialised in Archaeological Anthropology in the Panel.

Prof. Ranjana Roy, Professor Emerita, University of Calcutta, was the moderator
The seven panellists included the following:

- Prof. Vijay Prakash Preethala, Former Professor and Senior Fellow – ICSSR Andhra University
- Dr A. R. Sankhyan, Anthropologist (retd.), Anthropological Survey of India and President, Paleo Research Society, Himachal Pradesh.
- Prof. M. Manibabu, Professor and Head, Dep. Of Anthropology, Manipur Central University, Imphal,
- Prof. Manoj K. Singh, Professor in Anthropology, University of Delhi
- Dr. Queen B. Marak, Associate Professor. Dep. Of Anthropology, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong.
- Dr. Debasis Mondal, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Calcutta,
- Dr. Krishnendu Polley, Asst. Professor, PG Dept. of Anthropology, Bidhannagar College. Kolkata.



How to become a member

Membership Guidelines

- The qualifying degree for the Life membership in the Forum is a Post Graduation or a higher degree in Anthropology.
- We have Four Categories of Members as given below along with their subscription fee. The Age is the 'completed years' as on 1 January 2021.
 1. Senior - Veteran (70 years or above) - Subscription Fee - Nil
 2. Senior (50 years or above or a Professor even if below 50 years) - INR 1500/-
 3. Young (Between 30 and 49 years and those professionally employed even if less than 30 years) - INR 1000/-
 4. Budding (Below 30 years and those not professionally employed even if 30 years or above) - INR 250/-
- Those who register on or before the given date as notified in the Forum Website would qualify to become the Founding Members of the Forum.
- If you are a student-aspirant, pursuing your first degree of qualification in Anthropology at whichever level, you could subscribe to provisional membership for two years by remitting an amount of just 100 rupees (Rs 100/-) and become an Aspiring Anthropologist of the Forum. On acquiring the qualifying degree in Anthropology during the provisional membership, you could become a full-fledged member.
- The concessional Membership Fee is effective only for Early Registration as notified in the Forum Website after which it will be doubled
- To join the Forum Please visit the following page of our website : <https://www.anthropologyindiaforum.org/join-us> And click on the link: Apply for Membership



www.anthropologyindiaforum.org



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