

**INDIAN NATIONAL CONFEDERATION AND ACADEMY OF
ANTHROPOLOGISTS (INCAA)**

and

The Department of Anthropology, University of Lucknow

In collaboration with :

**Ethnographic and Folk Culture Society
Indian Academy of Anthropological Research and Training**

Propose to organize : **INTER-CONGRESS IN ANTHROPOLOGY : 2012** during
February 21-23, 2012; on the **Focal Theme :**

CONTESTED IDENTITIES IN THE GLOBALIZED WORLD

Understanding human diversity, in terms of social and bio-cultural aspects, has been the crux of anthropological research and engagement. In the light of the new global order that emerged during the past two decades or so, anthropology is required to negotiate with new methodologies, concepts, and issues. The world is no more the same. On the one hand 'multiculturalism' emerged as the buzz word, while on the other, we seem to be heading towards a process of quick cultural homogenization. Nevertheless, there are visible undercurrents of dissent, protest, and resistance too towards the tendency of cultural homogeneity.

The issue of identity is located largely in the contested terrain of culture. We are no longer engaged in the look out for parameters of a pristine holistic culture. Instead, we seem, to have shifted attention toward locating separate identities for each culture and group. Identities not only pertains to a whole culture of a community but seem to reflect different aspects of a culture.

Under this backdrop several issues may be taken up for close scrutiny such as:

1. Is cultural homogenization the ultimate goal for development or is being propagated under duress?
2. Does the notion of cultural heterogeneity still have a space as an alternative?
3. Do ethnic conflicts still have some relevance or they exist only in the mind set of those who are engaged in governance?
4. Does globalization pose a threat to biological distinctiveness too?
5. Does multiculturalism reflect a pious wish or socio-cultural wisdom?
6. What is the impact of monopolies of the super powers on various aspects of life and style of living?

7. What are the effects of inter-species inter-action ?
8. What are the human biological effects of repetitive activities in sports, work, and fitness environments?
9. What are the biological and ecological effects of the global climatic shifts on human populations?

All such issues and questions, may be several others, deserve appropriate highlight, with due attention to general, theoretical, historical, as well as empirical realities.