



# Department of Anthropology Panjab University, Chandigarh

In collaboration with  
United Indian Anthropology Forum  
organizes

Pre-Congress of

## World Anthropology Congress

(7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2023)

Theme

# ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

## An Anthropological Perspective

**“A ruined planet cannot sustain human lives in good health. A healthy planet and healthy people are two sides of the same coin.”**

**(Dr. Margaret Chan, Former Director-General of the World Health Organization)**

The world is grappling today with the crisis of climate change and many cities in India have unfortunate distinction of being the most polluted in the World. Under these circumstances priority for a discipline that deals with the holistic understanding of human civilization, is to explore causes and intermediary solutions or remedial measures for addressing this urgent concern. Environment and Health are closely intertwined concepts.

Human response to their environment is determined by their culture, genetic and physiological adaptations. Environment is an important determinant of quality of life. Health as defined by WHO (1948) is “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. In anthropological parlance, reference to environment and health goes beyond narrow implications of physical health. It talks about holistic denominator that includes physical, social, and mental well-being. If we view health beyond biological or genetic ailments then it is evident that human health is significantly impacted by socio-cultural practises and surrounding ecosystems.

Epidemics and pandemics are often a consequence of disequilibrium between adaptation and exogenous factors. The concept of health, disease and illness vary in accordance with the population’s ecosystem, food pattern, domestication, and pathogens. For over a century, anthropologists have explored various dimensions of human health and its relationship with ecology. Ecological anthropology has played a pivotal role in identifying complex relations between people and their environment.

Several other subfields of the Anthropology in particular Medical Anthropology, Molecular Anthropology, Twin Studies, Forensic Medicine, Gerontology, Cognition, Nutritional and Growth studies are primarily devoted to exploring complexities of these linkage. The bottom-up approach of the discipline helps in better understanding of the environment-health interaction at a local and community level. Technology has facilitated much faster transitions. We observe the emergence of global and global markets responsible for modifying the local environments. Rapid transition from rural to urban environments, changes in subsistence patterns and emerging social networks have posed fresh challenges for health researchers asking for innovative methodologies and theoretical paradigms.

Several theoretical paradigms have been developed over the years by the practitioners of the discipline. Julian Steward (1955) pioneered discussions on how environment impact the humans and how anthropogenic factors influence climate and environment. Globalization, urbanization, and industrialization have impacted climate adversely and contributed significantly to the rapid spread of epidemics like COVID-19, SARS, and several other diseases.

The relationship between environment and health is repeatedly emphasized by the World Health Organization. According to the data presented by WHO, “13.7 millions of deaths per year in 2016, amounting to 24% of the global deaths, are due to modifiable environmental risks. This means that almost 1 in 4 of total global deaths are linked to environment conditions. Disease agents and exposure pathways are numerous and unhealthy environmental conditions are common, with the result that most disease and injury categories are being impacted. Non-communicable diseases including ischaemic heart disease, chronic respiratory diseases and cancers are the most frequent disease outcomes caused. Injuries, respiratory infections, and stroke follow closely”.

Anthropological methodology has helped to evolve several intervention programmes to monitor community health. Discipline’s exceptional contribution for planning and monitoring communication strategies for managing HIV/AIDS, Polio and other public health concerns is widely acknowledged.

As we submit this concept note for your perusal, we in beautiful city of Chandigarh, where we invite your goodself for the last session of the Pre-WAC-23, present a clean green silo amidst dark grey sky that engulfs neighbouring States of Panjab, Haryana, Delhi and several other northern states of India. We invite you to experience its exuberance amidst a sprawling campus of one of the oldest Universities in India. It is in its pristine surroundings that we have intense and exhaustive discussion on anthropogenic factors impacting environment and contributing to climate change.

# Sub-themes of Pre-Congress

- **Anthropology of Business, Corporate Anthropology and Agricultural Anthropology**
- **Anthropological Insights into Disability**
- **Belief Systems and their Diversity**
- **Climate Change and Epidemics**
- **Community Health and Ecology**
- **Food, Culture and Health**
- **Globalisation, Health and the Environment**
- **Impact of COVID-19 on Holistic Understanding of Healthy Being**
- **Mental Health and Physical Well being**
- **Migration and Health**
- **Notion of Development and its Impact on Environment and Health**
- **Policy Alternatives and Interventions in the field of Health**
- **Political Ecology**
- **Primate Behaviour and Adaptation**
- **Re-inventing Indigenous Knowledge for Comprehending Complexities of Health Systems and Environment**
- **Tribal Development and Tribal Health**

**and other related topics covered under the ambit of Anthropological arena**

## **About the Panjab University:**

**One of the oldest Universities in India, the Panjab University (PU) initiated at Lahore in 1882, has a long tradition of pursuing excellence in teaching and research in science and technology, humanities, social sciences, performing arts and sports. The University supports excellence and innovation in academic programmes, promotes excellence in research, scholarship and teaching. The University is committed to attract and support the best students and faculty, who excel at teaching and research. In independent India, Panjab University with its Campus at Chandigarh and nearly two hundred colleges in Punjab state and Chandigarh (U.T.) has served various societal needs with distinction. The glorious traditions of the University established during the period of more than 140 years of its long service to the nation since its inception are a source of inspiration for the present generation of faculty members and students. By virtue of its history, experience, achievements and philosophy, the Panjab University has a national character and it enjoys an international stature drawing both faculty and students from all over the country and different parts of the globe. Over the years, the reputation of the Panjab University has grown to emerge as an institution at the pinnacle in innovative teaching, research and community outreach.**

## **About the Department of Anthropology:**

The Department of Anthropology at Panjab University, Chandigarh is a well-established and internationally known department in the field of Anthropology ever since its inception in 1960 by the distinguished scholar (Late) Professor S.R.K. Chopra, FNA, as its founder head. The Department is well known for the notable primate fossils discoveries from the Siwaliks. It has been recognized as the Nodal centre for pursuing Social Impact Assessment studies. The Department has been awarded as the UGC Centre of Advanced Study (CAS-II).

## **SRK Chopra Museum of Man:**

A unique and nationally acclaimed 'SRK Chopra Museum of Man' displays life-sized models of fossil hominoids and hominids. Museum models/fossils/tools/cultural artifacts have been thematically arranged into four:

- **Pre- and Proto-history Gallery**
- **Ethnographic Gallery**
- **Living Primate Gallery**
- **Human Evolution and Fossil Gallery**

The department is an established center of teaching and research in Anthropology- equipped with laboratories in:

- **Anatomy/ Forensic Anthropology**
- **Audio-Visual Laboratory**
- **Instrumentation Laboratory**
- **Molecular Anthropology/ Immunogenetics**
- **Paleoanthropology**
- **RUSA Laboratory**



# Call for Abstracts/ Papers

Oral and poster presentation (Times New Roman; Size: 12; Spacing: 1.5)

Last date of registration: **15.07.2023**

It is essential to submit the abstract through email at anthropuwac2023@gmail.com latest by **15.07.2023** before 05:00 PM. The decision for oral/ poster presentation will be communicated through email.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/Yb6tUMnq9hm5hh1Q7>



Scan to register

## Registration Fee

	With Accommodation*	Without Accommodation
Indian Academicians/Scientists/Faculty/ Guest Faculty	₹4500	₹3000
Indian Research Scholars/Post-docs	₹3000	₹2000
Indian Students	₹2500	₹1000
International Delegates	\$200	\$100

\*The accommodation will be provided from the afternoon of 6 August, 2023 to morning of 9 August, 2023 on sharing basis in the university guest house/ hostel.

## Venue

Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh-160014 (India)

Advance payment of registration fee should be made through online mode at the following account.

## Bank Details for Fee Payment

Beneficiary Name: Pre Congress of World Anthropology Congress

Bank Name: State Bank of India, Sector 14, Chandigarh

Account No.: 41955043012

IFSC: SBIN0000742

MICR No: 160002009

Kindly send the details of payment (name, affiliation, transaction ID, date, amount and phone number) along with screenshot of transaction to our email ID anthropuwac2023@gmail.com for further processing.

Patron:	Prof. Renu Vig, Honourable Vice- Chancellor, Panjab University, Chandigarh
Chairperson:	Dr. Maninder Kaur Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh
Organizing Secretary:	Dr. Maninder Kaur & Prof. A.K. Sinha
Organizing Committee:	

Professor Abhik Ghosh  
Department of Anthropology

Professor Kewal Krishan  
Department of Anthropology

Dr. Ramesh Sahani  
Department of Anthropology

Dr. J.S. Sehrawat  
Department of Anthropology

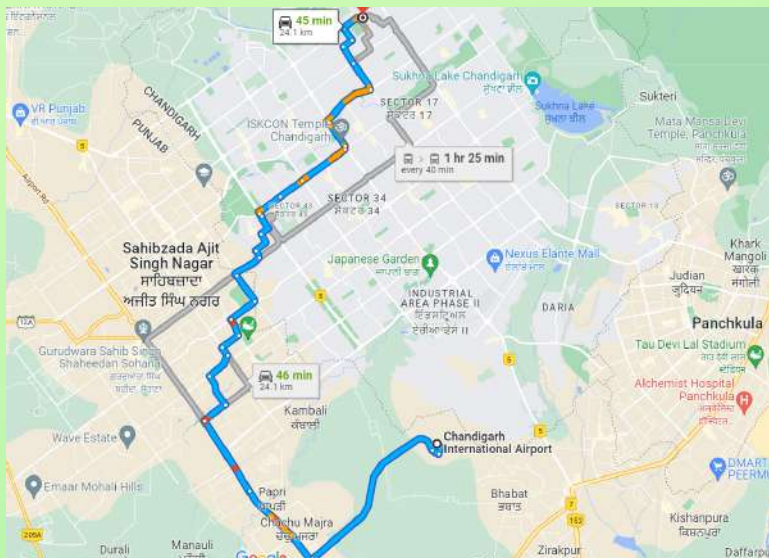
Dr. Suman Mor  
Department of Environment Studies

Dr. Roshan Lal  
Department of Psychology

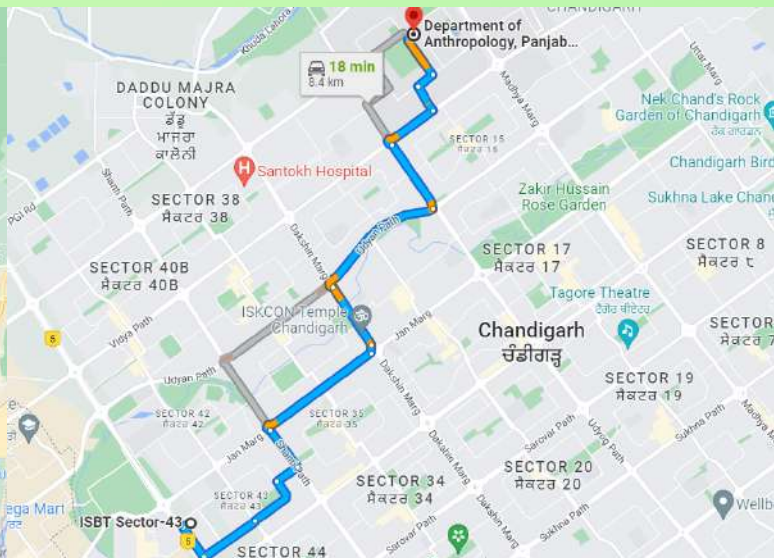
Dr. Y.K. Rawal  
Department of Zoology

Dr. Anu H. Gupta  
University Institute of Fashion Technology & Vocational Development

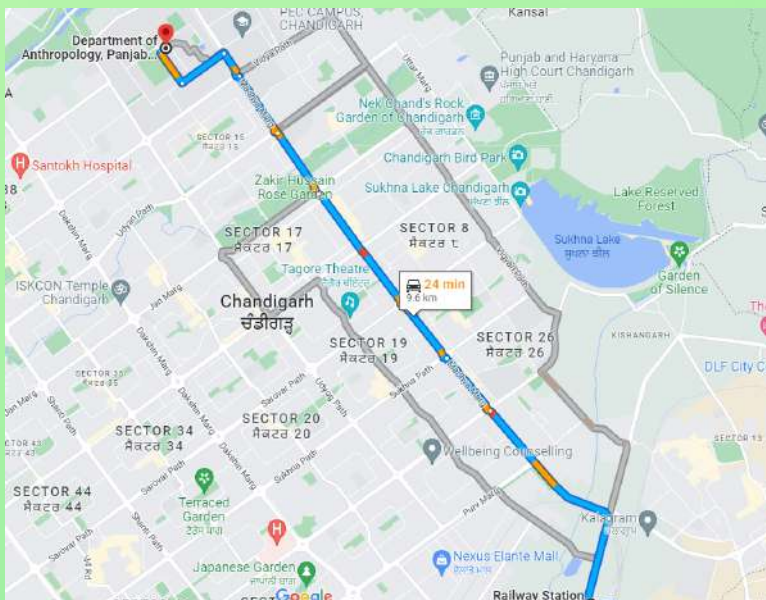
# HOW TO REACH PANJAB UNIVERSITY



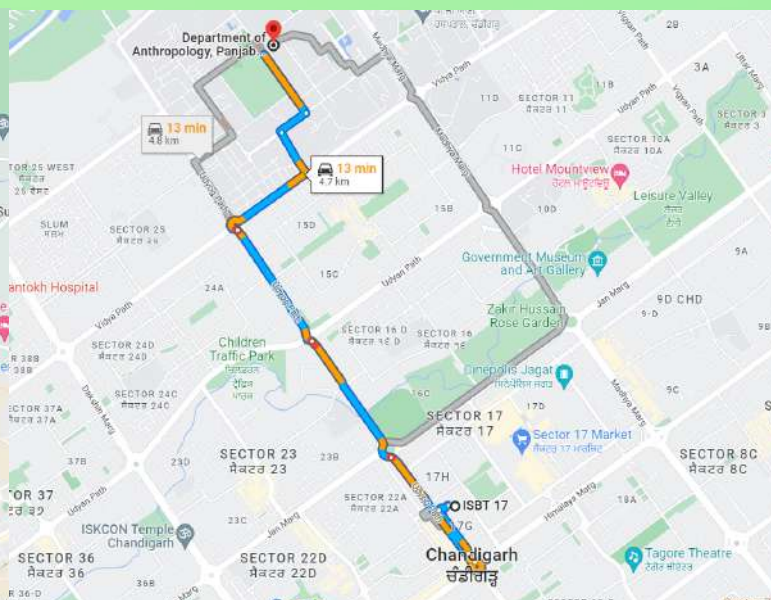
Chandigarh Airport to Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh.



ISBT 43 to Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh.



Chandigarh Railway Station to Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh.



ISBT 17 to Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh.