

XXII INQUA Congress 2027

Quaternary Science as Societal Services

28 January – 3 February 2027 · Indira Gandhi Pratishthan (IGP), Lucknow, India · www.inquaindia2027.in

Hosted by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow

Privacy Policy

Last updated on: 8 July 2026

This Privacy Policy ("Policy") explains how the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), 53, University Road, Lucknow – 226007, Uttar Pradesh, India, as the principal host institution and organiser of the XXII INQUA Congress 2027 ("the Congress", "INQUA India 2027"), together with its co-organising and supporting bodies including the Association of Quaternary Researchers (AOQR), the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India (collectively "we", "us", "our", "the Organiser"), collects, uses, discloses, retains and protects personal information when you visit our website (www.inquaindia2027.in), use the registration and Author Portal, submit an abstract, apply for a visa invitation letter or financial support, or otherwise interact with us in connection with the Congress.

This Policy applies to all visitors, registrants, delegates, authors, co-authors, exhibitors, sponsors, session convenors and other participants ("you", "your", "user"). By accessing our website/portal or submitting your information to us, you acknowledge that you have read and understood this Policy.

1. Scope of this Policy

1.1 This Policy covers personal information collected through:

- the INQUA India 2027 public website;
- the online registration system;
- the Author Portal (abstract submission, review and management);
- visa-support, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clearance and delegate documentation workflows;
- financial support / fee-waiver applications;
- email, SMS and OTP-based communications sent by or on behalf of the Organiser;
- any offline forms (e.g. at registration desks or during field trips) that are subsequently digitised.

1.2 This Policy does not apply to third-party websites that may be linked from our website/portal. We encourage you to review the privacy policies of any third-party sites you visit.

2. Information We Collect

We collect the following categories of personal information, depending on how you interact with us:

2.1 Identity and Contact Information

- Full name, title/prefix, gender
- Email address and mobile/telephone number
- Postal address, country of residence and nationality
- Institutional affiliation, designation and department

2.2 Registration and Payment Information

- Registration category (e.g. delegate, student, accompanying person, sponsor, exhibitor)
- Fee category, applicable discounts/concessions, invoice and payment reference numbers

- Billing details (billing name, address, GST/tax identification details, where applicable)
- Payment status; we do not store your full card, UPI or net-banking credentials — these are processed directly by our payment gateway partner

2.3 Abstract Submission and Scientific Content

- Abstract title, text, keywords, theme/session selection
- Names, affiliations and email addresses of authors and co-authors
- Uploaded files (e.g. figures, supplementary material) and any personal information contained within them
- Review comments, correspondence and revision history relating to your submission

2.4 Visa, Travel and Government-Coordination Information

- Passport details (passport number, issue/expiry date, nationality, passport photo page)
- Copies of passport and visa-related documents submitted for MEA clearance and visa invitation letters
- Travel dates, port of entry and accommodation details, where provided for visa or logistics purposes

2.4.1 This category of information is sensitive and is collected and shared strictly for the purpose of facilitating visa invitation letters and clearance through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, and other competent authorities, as described in Section 4.

2.5 Financial Support / Fee-Waiver Applications

- Details submitted in Financial Support Forms, including justification for support, career stage, and (where applicable) supporting institutional letters
- Bank account details, where financial assistance is disbursed directly

2.6 Technical and Usage Information

- Login/verification details (email address + one-time password (OTP))
- IP address, browser type and version, device identifiers
- Date and time of access, pages viewed, and referring/exit pages
- Cookies and similar tracking technologies (see Section 8)

2.7 Information from Third Parties

We may receive limited information about you from co-authors, your institution, travel agents, or government departments (e.g. MEA) acting on your behalf, where they submit information relating to your participation in the Congress.

3. How We Use Your Information

We use personal information for the following purposes:

- to process and manage registrations, invoicing, receipts and payments;
- to create and administer your Author Portal account, including login via email + OTP;
- to manage abstract submission, peer review, session scheduling and the scientific programme;
- to prepare and issue visa invitation letters and to coordinate with the MEA and other government authorities for visa clearance;
- to process financial support and fee-waiver applications and disburse approved assistance;

- to send official Congress communications, including confirmations, updates, reminders and logistical information;
- to provide customer support and respond to your queries or grievances;
- to maintain the security and integrity of the website/portal and prevent fraud, misuse or unauthorised access;
- to comply with applicable legal, regulatory, tax and financial obligations; and
- to compile aggregated, non-identifiable statistics for reporting to INQUA and event sponsors.

4. Legal Basis and Sharing of Information

4.1 We process personal information on the basis of: (a) your consent, given at the time of registration/submission; (b) performance of the registration contract between you and the Organiser; (c) compliance with legal obligations (e.g. visa coordination with government authorities, tax/financial reporting); and (d) our legitimate interests in organising and administering the Congress securely and efficiently.

4.2 We do not sell or rent your personal information to any third party. We may share your information only in the following circumstances:

- with payment gateway providers, solely to process registration payments;
- with email/SMS/OTP delivery service providers, solely to enable account verification and official communications;
- with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Indian missions/embassies abroad and other competent government authorities, solely for the purpose of visa invitation letters and clearance;
- with INQUA Council and co-organising/supporting bodies (AOQR, NCPOR, MoES, DST), solely for Congress administration and reporting;
- with our IT, hosting and portal-management service providers, who process information strictly on our instructions and under confidentiality obligations;
- where required to comply with applicable law, a court order, or a request from a government or regulatory authority; or
- with your explicit consent, for any other purpose.

4.3 All third parties with whom we share personal information are contractually or otherwise bound to use it only for the specified purpose and to apply appropriate safeguards.

5. International Data Transfers

As INQUA India 2027 is an international congress, information relating to overseas delegates, authors and reviewers may be accessed from, or transferred to, service providers and organising bodies located outside India, including for visa coordination, abstract review and scientific correspondence. Where such transfers occur, we take reasonable steps to ensure the information continues to be protected in a manner consistent with this Policy and applicable law, including the (Indian) Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

6. Data Retention

6.1 We retain personal information for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes described in this Policy, including the duration of the Congress, post-Congress reporting, and any applicable statutory retention period (e.g. financial/tax records).

6.2 Passport copies and other visa-related documents are retained only for as long as necessary to complete the visa coordination process and applicable government record-keeping requirements, after which they are securely deleted or archived in accordance with institutional policy.

6.3 Abstract content and scientific correspondence may be retained beyond the Congress for the purpose of the official Congress proceedings, archive and INQUA's scientific record.

7. Data Security

We implement reasonable technical and organisational security measures — including access controls, encrypted transmission (HTTPS/TLS), OTP-based authentication and restricted internal access — designed to protect personal information against unauthorised access, alteration, disclosure or destruction. However, no method of transmission or storage is completely secure, and we cannot guarantee absolute security.

8. Cookies and Similar Technologies

8.1 Our website/portal may use cookies and similar technologies to enable core functionality (such as login/session continuity), remember your preferences, and analyse website usage to improve user experience.

8.2 You may accept or decline non-essential cookies through your browser settings. Please note that disabling cookies may affect certain portal functions, including your ability to remain logged in to the Author Portal.

9. Your Rights

Subject to applicable law, including the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (India), you have the right to:

- access the personal information we hold about you;
- request correction of inaccurate or incomplete information;
- request erasure of your personal information, subject to our legal and record-keeping obligations;
- withdraw consent previously given, without affecting the lawfulness of processing carried out before withdrawal;
- lodge a grievance with our Grievance Officer (see Section 12) regarding the handling of your personal information.

To exercise any of these rights, please email inqua.india@bsip.res.in with your request. We will respond within a reasonable time and in accordance with applicable law.

10. Children's Privacy

The Congress and its website/portal are not directed at children. In line with the Congress Delegate Terms and Conditions, no one under the age of 18 is permitted to attend the Congress without the prior written approval of the Organiser, and we do not knowingly collect personal information from children without such approval and appropriate parental/guardian consent.

11. Data Correction and Grievances

If you need to update, correct, or have questions about your personal information, or wish to raise a grievance about how your information has been handled, please contact us at inqua.india@bsip.res.in. We will endeavour to resolve the issue and avoid any re-occurrence.

12. Grievance Officer / Contact Details

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP)

53, University Road, Lucknow – 226007, Uttar Pradesh, India

Phone: +91-522-2742902 / +91-522-2742903

Email (Congress Secretariat): inqua.india@bsip.res.in

Email (Institute): director@bsip.res.in, registrar@bsip.res.in

Website: www.inquaindia2027.in

13. Changes to this Policy

We may amend this Privacy Policy from time to time to reflect changes in our practices, technology, legal requirements or other factors. The updated Policy will be posted on this website with a revised "Last updated" date. Your continued use of the website/portal after any such update constitutes your acknowledgement of the revised Policy.

14. Governing Law

This Policy and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of India. The courts at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any such dispute or claim.

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Terms and Conditions

Last updated on: 8 July 2026

This document sets out the Terms and Conditions applicable to the INQUA India 2027 website/portal and to your registration and participation in the XXII INQUA Congress 2027. It is presented in two parts: Part A covers general use of the website/portal, and Part B covers delegate and author registration and participation.

Part A — Website Terms & Conditions

These Website Terms and Conditions ("Terms") govern your access to and use of the website www.inquaindia2027.in, the online registration system and the Author Portal (together, "the website/portal") operated by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), 53, University Road, Lucknow – 226007, Uttar Pradesh, India, as principal host institution and organiser of the XXII INQUA Congress 2027 ("the Congress", "INQUA India 2027"), together with its co-organising and supporting bodies including the Association of Quaternary Researchers (AOQR), the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India (collectively "we", "us", "our", "the Organiser").

For the purpose of these Terms, "you", "your", "user", "visitor", "participant" or "author" means any person who visits the website/portal and/or uses the registration and Author Portal, whether or not they go on to register for the Congress.

These Terms apply to your general use of the website/portal. If you register as a delegate or author for the Congress, your registration and participation are additionally governed by Part B — Delegate Terms and Conditions below, which take precedence over this Part A in the event of any conflict in relation to registration, fees, cancellation and participation matters.

A1. Acceptance of Terms

A1.1 By accessing, browsing or using this website/portal, you confirm that you accept these Terms and agree to comply with them. If you do not agree to these Terms, you must not use the website/portal.

A1.2 We may revise these Terms at any time by updating this page. Please check this page periodically to take notice of any changes, as they are binding on you.

A2. Use of the Website/Portal

A2.1 The content of the website/portal is subject to change without notice.

A2.2 Information on the website/portal is provided on a best-effort basis. Neither BSIP nor INQUA India 2027 guarantees the completeness, accuracy, timeliness or suitability of the information for any particular purpose.

A2.3 Your use of any information or materials on this website/portal is entirely at your own risk, and we shall not be liable for any loss or damage arising from such use.

A2.4 You agree to use the website/portal only for lawful purposes and in a manner that does not infringe the rights of, or restrict or inhibit the use and enjoyment of the website/portal by, any third party.

A2.5 You must not attempt to gain unauthorised access to any part of the website/portal, the server on which it is hosted, or any server, computer or database connected to it. You must not attack the website/portal via a denial-of-service attack or a distributed denial-of-service attack.

A3. Registration Credentials and Author Portal Access

A3.1 Access to the Author Portal is provided via email address and one-time password (OTP) verification. You are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of your login credentials and for all activities that occur under your account.

A3.2 You must notify us immediately at inqua.india@bsip.res.in of any unauthorised use of your account or any other breach of security.

A3.3 You may not share, transfer or sell your Author Portal login, registration confirmation, access pass, QR code or any other credentials issued to you, except with our prior written consent.

A4. Intellectual Property

A4.1 The website/portal and its content — including but not limited to its design, layout, text, graphics, logos, images and downloadable material — are owned by, or licensed to, BSIP/INQUA India 2027 and are protected by applicable intellectual property laws.

A4.2 You may view, download and print extracts of the website/portal for your own personal, non-commercial use, provided you do not modify the content and you retain all copyright and proprietary notices.

A4.3 Reproduction, distribution, publication or commercial exploitation of any part of the website/portal or its content, in any form, without our prior written permission is strictly prohibited.

A4.4 Unauthorised use of the website/portal or its content may give rise to a claim for damages and/or be a criminal offence under applicable law.

A4.5 Abstracts, presentations and other scientific content submitted by authors remain the intellectual property of the respective authors, save that authors grant the Organiser and INQUA a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to reproduce, publish and archive such content as part of the official Congress proceedings and record.

A5. Third-Party Links

A5.1 The website/portal may contain links to third-party websites (e.g. sponsors, venue, travel partners, payment gateway). These links are provided for your convenience only.

A5.2 We have no control over, and accept no responsibility or liability for, the content, accuracy, availability or privacy practices of any linked third-party website. Accessing any linked website is entirely at your own risk.

A5.3 The inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement by us of the linked website or any products, services or views expressed therein.

A6. Linking to This Website

You may not create a link to this website/portal from another website or document, whether by hyperlink, framing or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the Congress Organising Secretariat. Any permitted link must not suggest any form of association, approval or endorsement by us where none exists.

A7. Disclaimer of Warranties

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the website/portal is provided on an "as is" and "as available" basis, without warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, including but not limited to implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, non-infringement, or that the website/portal will be uninterrupted, timely, secure or error-free.

A8. Limitation of Liability

A8.1 To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, neither BSIP nor INQUA India 2027, nor its co-organising and supporting bodies, officers, employees or agents, shall be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, consequential or exemplary damages arising out of or in connection with your access to or use of (or inability to access or use) the website/portal.

A8.2 Nothing in these Terms shall exclude or limit our liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence, or for fraud, or for any other liability that cannot be excluded or limited under applicable law.

A9. Indemnity

You agree to indemnify and hold harmless BSIP, INQUA India 2027 and its co-organising and supporting bodies, officers, employees and agents from and against any claims, liabilities, damages, losses and expenses (including reasonable legal fees) arising out of or in any way connected with your breach of these Terms or your misuse of the website/portal.

A10. Suspension and Termination

We reserve the right, at our sole discretion and without notice, to suspend, restrict or terminate your access to all or part of the website/portal, including the Author Portal, if we reasonably believe you have breached these Terms, engaged in fraudulent or unlawful activity, or misused the website/portal in any way.

A11. Privacy

Our collection, use and protection of your personal information is governed by our separate Privacy Policy, which should be read together with these Terms.

A12. Severability

If any provision of these Terms is found to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, that provision shall be deemed severed from these Terms, and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

A13. Entire Agreement

This Part A, together with our Privacy Policy and Part B — Delegate Terms and Conditions (where applicable), constitutes the entire agreement between you and us in relation to your use of the website/portal, and supersedes any prior agreements, representations or understandings, whether written or oral.

A14. Governing Law and Jurisdiction

Any dispute arising out of or in connection with your use of this website/portal shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of India, and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.

A15. Contact Us

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP)

53, University Road, Lucknow – 226007, Uttar Pradesh, India

Phone: +91-522-2742902 / +91-522-2742903

Email (Congress Secretariat): inqua.india@bsip.res.in

Email (Institute): director@bsip.res.in, registrar@bsip.res.in

Website: www.inquaindia2027.in

Part B — Delegate Terms and Conditions

These Delegate Terms and Conditions apply between the person, institution, firm or other entity named on your registration form ("you" or "your") and the Organising Committee of the XXII INQUA Congress 2027 ("the Congress"), as set out in full below.

B1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 These terms and conditions apply between the person, institution, firm or other entity named on your registration form ("you" or "your") and the Organising Committee of the XXII INQUA Congress 2027 ("the Congress"), convened under the aegis of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) and hosted by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow, India, as principal host institution and organiser, together with its co-organising and supporting bodies, including the Association of Quaternary Researchers (AOQR), the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India (collectively, "the Organiser", "we", "us" or "our"), for delegate and author registrations for the Congress and your participation therein. Please read them carefully as they contain important information.

1.2 All applications to register for the Congress are made subject to these Terms & Conditions (which shall apply to the exclusion of any terms imposed by you) ("your registration"). If you do not agree to be bound by these terms, the Organiser will not be able to accept your registration.

B2. REGISTRATION

2.1 All applications to register for the Congress are subject to availability, and acceptance of your registration is at the Organiser's sole discretion.

2.2 When you, or someone acting on your behalf, submit your registration to the Organiser to attend the Congress, you hereby agree to be bound by these terms and conditions. Your registration constitutes an offer by you to the Organiser to attend the Congress and is subject to the Organiser's acceptance in writing, including via email. A binding contract between the Organiser and you will only be formed when written confirmation of acceptance is sent by the Organiser to you (whether or not it is received) using the contact details you provided at the time of registration. It is your responsibility to ensure that the contact details you provide on registration are correct.

2.3 The Organiser reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to refuse to accept your registration and/or to disable or restrict any access, at any time, if, in the Organiser's reasonable discretion, you have failed to comply with any of the provisions of these terms and conditions.

2.4 Any and all costs associated with your registration and participation (including but not limited to travel, visa and accommodation costs) shall be borne by you. The Organiser shall have no liability for such costs.

2.5 Only pre-registered delegates and authors may attend the Congress. You are not permitted to share or transfer any Congress access pass, login link and/or code provided by the Organiser to any third party unless you have sought and obtained the express written consent of the Organiser to do so. No one under the age of 18 will be permitted to attend the Congress without the prior written approval of the Organiser.

B3. DELEGATE CONDUCT

3.1 The Organiser endeavours to provide an inclusive and informative environment for all participants in the Congress, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Delegates shall conduct themselves in an appropriate, professional and collegial manner throughout the Congress, including at all scientific sessions, social events and field trips. Offensive, abusive or discriminatory language and/or behaviour is not permitted.

3.2 You acknowledge that the Organiser reserves the right to exclude or remove delegates from the Congress if, in its sole but reasonable discretion, it determines that your behaviour in any way breaches these terms and conditions or is undesirable, disruptive or hinders the enjoyment of the Congress by sponsors, delegates and/or any other participants. The Organiser's decision is final, and the Organiser accepts no responsibility or liability for any costs, claims, damages or expenses incurred by you in connection with such exclusion or removal.

3.3 Whilst attending the Congress, you will comply with all applicable laws and all reasonable instructions given by or on behalf of the Organiser and/or the venue owner, including in relation to any security arrangements.

3.4 You are responsible for ensuring your own safety and security whilst attending the Congress, including on any pre-, mid- or post-Congress field trips. Save as set out in these terms and conditions, the Organiser shall not be liable for any injury, loss or damage suffered by you.

B4. FEES AND PAYMENT

4.1 Payment of any applicable registration fee (together with any applicable taxes) for the Congress ("Charges") is due in full in cleared funds at the time of registration and, in any event, prior to you accessing the Congress. If such payment is declined for any reason, the Organiser may refuse to allow you access (whether physical and/or virtual) to the Congress and shall have no liability to you in that regard.

4.2 It is the intent of the parties that the Organiser will receive payment of any applicable Charges net of all applicable taxes, including without limitation GST, service or withholding taxes ("Taxes"), all of which shall be paid solely by you. If and to the extent that any Taxes are levied upon, or found to be applicable to, the whole or any portion of the payment of your Charges, the amount of such payment shall be increased by an amount necessary to compensate for the Taxes (including any amount necessary to "gross up" for Taxes levied on the increase itself).

4.3 Where Charges are paid in a currency other than Indian Rupees (INR), any refund due under these terms will be calculated and reimbursed with reference to the exchange rate applicable on the date the original payment was transferred.

B5. SERVICES

5.1 Accommodation. The Registration does not include hotel accommodation and travel.

B6. CANCELLATION

6.1 Cancellations received in writing within 24 hours of your completed registration will be eligible for a full refund.

6.2 Cancellations received in writing more than one month before the start of the Congress will be eligible for a refund of 50% of Registration Fee. Cancellations received in writing within one month of the start date of the Congress will receive no refund, and registrants will remain liable for payment of 100% of the Charges. If your registration is cancelled due to malpractice or misuse of a discount or concessional category, no refund will be issued. The Organising Committee reserves the right to refuse any refund based on its management discretion.

6.3 If you require a refund on medical grounds, including on the basis of a positive test for a notifiable infectious disease, you will need to provide supporting evidence to the Congress Secretariat.

6.4 If you need to cancel your registration because your visa application has been denied, you will need to contact the Congress Secretariat within one week of the rejection, together with supporting documentation, to be eligible for a refund. Please note that visa invitation letters for the Congress are processed through the

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, and applicants are strongly encouraged to apply well in advance of the Congress dates.

6.5 Group and institutional registrations using a group or bulk discount will not be eligible for a refund. Registration transfers will still be valid on such registrations up to one month before the Congress. Please email inqua.india@bsip.res.in to request a transfer, cancellation or refund.

B7. CANCELLATION OR CHANGES TO THE CONGRESS BY THE ORGANISER

7.1 The Organiser may (at its sole discretion) change:

(a) the format (including, without limitation, from a physical in-person Congress to a virtual or hybrid Congress and vice versa), speakers, participants, content, venue, location, timings, field trips and programme, or any other aspect of the Congress at any time and for any reason, whether or not due to a Force Majeure Event, in each case without liability.

(b) the dates of the Congress or cancel the Congress at any time for any reason. Where the Organiser changes the dates for any reason except due to a Force Majeure Event (in which case the terms of clause 8 shall apply), the Organiser shall automatically transfer your registration to the rearranged Congress.

7.2 In the event that the Congress is permanently cancelled (and not postponed) by the Organiser, including without limitation due to a Force Majeure Event or a lack of support for the Congress, the Organiser will refund to the delegate the full Charges transferred by the delegate, calculated with reference to the exchange rate applicable on the day of the original transfer, and you agree and acknowledge that you will have no further claim whatsoever against the Organiser in respect of such cancellation.

B8. FORCE MAJEURE

8.1 Where a Force Majeure Event has or may have (in the Organiser's sole discretion, in consultation with INQUA Council) an adverse impact on: (i) the ability of the Organiser to hold the Congress at the planned venue or on the planned dates; or (ii) the Congress generally, then the Organiser shall be entitled but not obliged (in its sole discretion) to either: (i) provide an alternative format, facility, timings or venue (including virtual or hybrid) for the Congress; and/or (ii) reschedule the Congress. Any Charges received by the Organiser shall be applied to any rearranged or rescheduled Congress held pursuant to this clause 8, and you shall not be entitled to object to such rearranged or rescheduled Congress or have any right to claim compensation in respect thereof. If the Organiser is unable or elects not to rearrange or reschedule the Congress pursuant to this clause 8, then you will (as your sole remedy) be entitled, in your sole discretion, to receive either a refund or credit note in respect of your Charges received by the Organiser.

8.2 For the purpose of these terms and conditions, "Force Majeure Event" means any event or circumstance arising that is beyond the reasonable control of the Organiser, including but not limited to governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, restrictions, guidelines or recommendations, imposition of sanctions, embargo, military action, acts or threats of terrorism or war, mob, civil commotion or riot, health scares (including without limitation epidemic and pandemic events, whether or not new, ongoing or recurring), fire, acts of God, flood, drought, earthquake, severe weather, disaster, disruption to transportation, third-party contractor or supplier failure, venue damage or cancellation, industrial dispute, strikes, labour disputes, interruption or failure of utility service, lack of commodities or supplies, accidents, nuclear, chemical or biological contamination, speaker or participant cancellation or withdrawal, or any other comparable calamity or casualty.

8.3 To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the Organiser shall not be liable to you for any loss, delay, damage or other liability incurred resulting from or arising in connection with the cancellation or date change of the Congress, howsoever arising, or any venue change. You acknowledge and agree that the

provisions of clauses 7 and 8 set out your sole remedy should the Congress be changed, postponed or cancelled, and all other liability of the Organiser is expressly excluded.

8.4 Subject always to clauses 8.2 and 8.3 above, if, by reason of any Force Majeure Event, the Organiser is delayed in or prevented from performing any of its obligations to you under these terms and conditions or otherwise, then such delay or non-performance shall not be deemed to be a breach of these terms and conditions, and no loss or damage shall be claimed by you by reason thereof. The Organiser's obligations shall be suspended during the period of the delay or non-performance, and the Organiser and you shall each use reasonable endeavours to mitigate the effect of the Force Majeure Event.

B9. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, THE ORGANISER EXCLUDES: (A) ALL LIABILITY FOR LOSS, INJURY, DISEASE OR DAMAGE TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY AT THE CONGRESS; (B) ALL INDEMNITIES, WARRANTIES AND REPRESENTATIONS (WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED); AND (C) ANY ACTUAL OR ALLEGED INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS, ANTICIPATED PROFITS, SAVINGS, REVENUE, BUSINESS, OPPORTUNITY, GOODWILL, OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF ECONOMIC LOSS, SUFFERED BY YOU HOWSOEVER ARISING. IF THE ORGANISER IS LIABLE TO YOU FOR ANY REASON, THE ORGANISER'S TOTAL LIABILITY TO YOU IN RELATION TO THE CONGRESS (WHETHER UNDER THESE TERMS OR OTHERWISE) IS LIMITED TO THE AMOUNT OF ANY CHARGES REMITTED BY YOU AND RECEIVED BY THE ORGANISER IN CLEARED FUNDS.

B10. GENERAL

10.1 The Organiser reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions from time to time. However, you will be subject to the terms and conditions in force at the time you submit your registration.

10.2 The illegality, invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these terms and conditions shall not affect the legality, validity or enforceability of any other provision, and in the event that any particular provision is deemed invalid, illegal or unenforceable, these terms and conditions shall be construed as if such provision was removed, and the remainder shall be read and construed as if the offending provision had never formed part of these terms and conditions.

10.3 These terms and conditions, together with the registration form, constitute the entire agreement between the parties and supersede and extinguish all previous agreements, promises, assurances, warranties, representations and understandings between them, whether written or oral, relating to their subject matter, and no correspondence or representation, written or verbal, entered into or which took place before the date of registration shall apply.

10.4 Nothing in these terms and conditions is intended to create a partnership, joint venture or legal relationship of any kind between the parties.

10.5 These terms and conditions and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with them or their subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of India. The parties irrevocably agree that the courts at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India shall have exclusive jurisdiction to determine any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with these terms and conditions or their subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims).

10.6 Should you have any reason for a complaint, the Congress Secretariat will endeavour to resolve the issue and avoid any re-occurrence in future. You can contact the Secretariat using the following details:

Contact: XXII INQUA Congress 2027 Secretariat

Host Institution: Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP)

Address: 53, University Road, Lucknow - 226007, Uttar Pradesh, India

Phone: +91-522-2742902 / +91-522-2742903

Email: inqua.india@bsip.res.in

Website: www.inquaindia2027.in

XXII INQUA Congress 2027

Quaternary Science as Societal Services

28 January – 3 February 2027 · Indira Gandhi Pratishthan (IGP), Lucknow, India · www.inquaindia2027.in

Hosted by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow

Cancellation Policy

Last updated on: 8 July 2026

This Cancellation Policy ("Policy") explains how registrations for the XXII INQUA Congress 2027 ("the Congress") may be cancelled, either by you or by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), 53, University Road, Lucknow – 226007, Uttar Pradesh, India, together with its co-organising and supporting bodies (collectively "we", "us", "our", "the Organiser"). For information on refund amounts, eligibility and processing timelines, please see our separate Refund Policy. This Policy should be read together with the Refund Policy and the Delegate Terms and Conditions, which take precedence in the event of any conflict.

1. Cancelling Your Registration

- 1.1** You may cancel your registration at any time before the start of the Congress by submitting a written request to inqua.india@bsip.res.in, quoting your registration ID and reason for cancellation.
- 1.2** The refund (if any) applicable to your cancellation depends on how far in advance of the Congress your written cancellation request is received. Please refer to our Refund Policy for the applicable refund tiers and conditions.
- 1.3** A cancellation is only effective once acknowledged in writing by the Congress Secretariat. Non-attendance at the Congress without a written cancellation request does not constitute a valid cancellation and will not entitle you to any refund.
- 1.4** Cancellations will not be accepted where the underlying registration was obtained through malpractice or misuse of a discount or concessional category; such registrations may be cancelled by the Organiser without any refund.

2. Cancelling a Group or Institutional Registration

Group and institutional registrations made using a group or bulk discount may be cancelled in writing, but are not eligible for a refund under our Refund Policy. As an alternative to cancellation, such registrations may instead be transferred to another eligible individual from the same institution (see Section 4).

3. Cancellation Due to Visa Refusal or Medical Grounds

- 3.1** If you are unable to attend the Congress because your visa application has been denied, you should notify the Congress Secretariat in writing within one week of the rejection, together with supporting documentation, so that your cancellation can be processed and assessed for a refund under our Refund Policy.
- 3.2** If you need to cancel on medical grounds, including due to a notifiable infectious disease, please notify the Congress Secretariat in writing as soon as reasonably possible, together with supporting evidence.

4. Registration Transfers (in Lieu of Cancellation)

If you are unable to attend, you may request to transfer your registration to another eligible individual from your institution instead of cancelling outright. Transfer requests should be sent in writing to inqua.india@bsip.res.in, together with the substitute delegate's details, and are subject to the Organiser's

approval. Transfers on group/institutional (bulk discount) registrations remain valid up to one month before the Congress.

5. Cancellation of the Congress by the Organiser

5.1 The Organiser may, at its sole discretion, change the format (including from a physical in-person Congress to a virtual or hybrid Congress and vice versa), speakers, participants, content, venue, location, timings, field trips or programme of the Congress at any time and for any reason, without liability.

5.2 Where the Organiser changes the dates of the Congress for reasons other than a Force Majeure Event, your registration will automatically be transferred to the rearranged Congress.

5.3 If the Congress is permanently cancelled (and not postponed) by the Organiser, including due to a Force Majeure Event or a lack of support for the Congress, you will be notified in writing and will be entitled to a refund as set out in our Refund Policy.

6. Force Majeure Cancellations

Where a Force Majeure Event (as defined in the Delegate Terms and Conditions, including but not limited to natural disasters, epidemics/pandemics, government restrictions, war, terrorism, strikes or venue unavailability) prevents the Congress from proceeding as planned, the Organiser may, at its discretion, reschedule the Congress, offer an alternative format or venue, or cancel the Congress. In each case, the treatment of your registration and any applicable refund or credit note will be as set out in our Refund Policy.

7. Notification of Cancellation

If the Organiser cancels or materially changes the Congress, we will endeavour to notify all registered delegates and authors by email, using the contact details provided at the time of registration, as soon as reasonably practicable. It is your responsibility to ensure your contact details on file are accurate and up to date.

8. How to Submit a Cancellation Request

8.1 All cancellation requests must be made in writing to inqua.india@bsip.res.in. Requests made by telephone or verbally will not be accepted.

8.2 Please include your full name, registration ID, registration category, and reason for cancellation, along with any supporting documentation required (e.g. for visa refusal or medical grounds).

8.3 You will receive a written acknowledgement once your cancellation has been processed.

9. Contact Us

For all cancellation-related queries, please contact:

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Refund Policy

Last updated on: 8 July 2026

This Refund Policy ("Policy") explains when and how registration fee refunds are issued for the XXII INQUA Congress 2027 ("the Congress"), organised by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), 53, University Road, Lucknow – 226007, Uttar Pradesh, India, together with its co-organising and supporting bodies (collectively "we", "us", "our", "the Organiser"). This Policy should be read together with our Cancellation Policy and the Delegate Terms and Conditions, which take precedence in the event of any conflict.

1. Refund Eligibility on Cancellation by You

- 1.1 Cancellations received in writing within 24 hours of your completed registration are eligible for a full refund of the Registration Fee.
- 1.2 Cancellations received in writing more than one month before the start of the Congress are eligible for a refund of 50% of the Registration Fee.
- 1.3 Cancellations received in writing within one month of the start date of the Congress are not eligible for any refund, and the registrant remains liable for payment of 100% of the Charges.
- 1.4 No refund will be issued where a registration is cancelled due to malpractice or misuse of a discount or concessional category.
- 1.5 Group and institutional registrations made using a group or bulk discount are not eligible for a refund under any circumstance, though registration transfers remain available (see Section 5).
- 1.6 The Organising Committee reserves the right to refuse any refund based on its management discretion.

2. Refunds on Medical Grounds

If you require a refund on medical grounds, including on the basis of a positive test for a notifiable infectious disease, you must provide supporting evidence (e.g. a medical certificate or test report) to the Congress Secretariat. Such requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis and are not automatically guaranteed.

3. Refunds on Visa Refusal

- 3.1 If your visa application is denied, you may be eligible for a refund provided you contact the Congress Secretariat in writing within one week of the rejection, together with supporting documentation (e.g. the visa refusal letter).
- 3.2 Visa invitation letters for the Congress are processed through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply well in advance of the Congress dates, as refund requests made outside the one-week window may not be honoured.

4. Refunds on Cancellation or Change of the Congress by the Organiser

- 4.1 If the Congress is permanently cancelled (and not postponed) by the Organiser, including due to a Force Majeure Event, the Organiser will refund the full Charges transferred by you.

4.2 If the Congress dates are changed for reasons other than a Force Majeure Event, your registration will be automatically transferred to the rearranged Congress and no refund will be due unless you separately cancel in accordance with Section 1.

4.3 Where a Force Majeure Event affects the Organiser's ability to hold the Congress, and the Organiser is unable or elects not to rearrange or reschedule it, you will be entitled, at your discretion, to receive either a refund or a credit note in respect of your Charges.

5. Registration Transfers as an Alternative to Refund

Where a refund is not available or not the preferred option, you may request to transfer your registration to another eligible individual from your institution, subject to the Organiser's approval. Transfer requests should be sent in writing to inqua.india@bsip.res.in. For group/institutional (bulk discount) registrations, transfers remain valid up to one month before the Congress.

6. Currency and Exchange Rate

Where Charges were paid in a currency other than Indian Rupees (INR), any refund due under this Policy will be calculated and reimbursed with reference to the exchange rate applicable on the date the original payment was transferred. Registrants should note that currency fluctuations between the date of payment and the date of refund are beyond the Organiser's control, and no compensation will be payable for any resulting difference.

7. Non-Refundable Charges

Any bank charges, currency conversion charges, payment gateway fees or transaction charges deducted at the time of the original payment are non-refundable and will not form part of any refund amount.

8. How to Request a Refund

8.1 All refund requests must be made in writing to inqua.india@bsip.res.in, quoting your registration ID, name, and reason for the refund request, along with any supporting documentation required under this Policy.

8.2 Refund requests made by telephone or verbally will not be accepted; a written request is required for processing and record purposes.

9. Processing of Approved Refunds

9.1 Once approved, refunds will be processed to the original mode of payment used at the time of registration, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

9.2 Refunds are typically processed within a reasonable period following approval; the exact timeline may depend on your bank, payment gateway or card issuer's own processing times, which are outside the Organiser's control.

9.3 You will receive a written confirmation once your refund has been processed.

10. Contact Us

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