



दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय  
University of Delhi

# REPORT

*activities conducted by*

**CENTRE FOR TRIBAL  
STUDIES**

**UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

**2025**

## VISION

The Executive Council of the University of Delhi decided to establish Centre for Tribal Studies (CTS) on 9 June 2023 as a multi-disciplinary centre under Faculty of Social Sciences, to facilitate studies on different tribes of India as per Ordinance XX (Z). The office bearers were appointed on 1st August 2023. The Centre is currently located at Room no. 30 of the Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.

The Centre attempts to:

- (i) Understand the term “Tribe” from India-Centric perspective including study of their social, cultural, linguistic, religious, economic, environmental diversity and commonalities.
- (ii) Study the role and contribution of tribal leaders in various eras of Indian history.
- (iii) Highlight role and significance of tribal leaders in India’s struggle for freedom, and bring out to prominence the unsung heroes among them.
- (iv) Document various Lok traditions of India’s tribes including their indigenous/traditional knowledge and work to disseminate such information to the public in general and to academia and students in particular.
- (v) Identify special problems and needs of Denotified and Nomadic tribes and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) with special reference to conservation, development and special health needs.
- (vi) Examine the significance of forest-tribe relationship with special reference to stability of forest ecosystems and livelihood issues.
- (vii) Study contemporary issues relevant to the tribal communities which has a significant bearing on their present well-being and future progression in terms of overall developmental perspective.

# Governing Structure



**Prof. Yogesh Singh**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor  
University of Delhi

## Executive Council of the University

### Governing Body

- (i) **Prof. Shri Prakash Singh**  
Chairperson of Governing Body
- (ii) Pro-Vice Chancellor  
(Ex-officio)
- (iii) Dean of Colleges  
(Ex-Officio)
- (iv) Dean, Faculty of Science  
(Ex-Officio)
- (v) Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences  
(Ex-Officio)
- (vi) Dean, Faculty of Arts  
(Ex-Officio)
- External Expert members*
- (vii) Prof. T.V. Kattimani  
Central Tribal University of A.P
- (viii) Prof. Chander Mohan Parsheera  
Director, Institute of Tribal Studies, Himachal Pradesh University
- Distinguished Academician*
- (ix) Prof. Payal Mago,  
Director, Campus of Open Learning
- (x) Prof. K. Ratnabali,  
Dean, Academics
- (xi) Prof. V.S Negi  
Department of Geography
- (xii) Prof. Soumendra M. Patnaik  
Director of the Centre - Member Secretary
- (xiii) Dr. Avitoli G Zhimo  
Joint Director, CTS

### Research Committee

- (i) Prof. S.M. Patnaik  
Director, CTS - Chairperson
- Distinguished Academician*
- (ii) Prof. Payal Mago,  
Director, Campus of Open Learning
- (iii) Prof. K. Ratnabali,  
Dean, Academics
- (iv) Prof. V.S Negi  
Department of Geography
- Expert Members*
- (v) Prof. T.V. Kattimani  
Central Tribal University of A.P
- (vi) Dr. Seema Singh  
Faculty of Law
- (vii) Dr. Santosh Hasnu  
Hansraj College
- (ix) Dr. Avitoli G. Zhimo  
Joint Director, CTS - Member Secretary

# Activities conducted

## Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas | 15 November 2023

The Centre for Tribal Studies celebrated 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' on November 15, 2023, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

During the event, Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, Chairperson, Governing Body of the Centre and Director, South Campus emphasised the vital role of the Centre for Tribal Studies at Delhi University, in the context of lack of awareness within academia and the broader public regarding the tribals' significant contributions to India's independence struggle. He announced a substantial seed grant of 50 lakhs for the centre, with forthcoming fellowships and projects aimed at fortifying research and documentation of India's tribes.

Chief Guest Prof. Balaram Pani highlighted the discipline and precision exhibited by Bhagwan Birsa Munda at a young age. Drawing parallels, he elucidated the scientific knowledge possessed by tribal communities iron technology and construction of ancient temples.

Renowned folk artist and theatre director Shri. Anirudha D. Wankar delivered an enlightening lecture on '*Zhadipatti Rangbhoomi*,' illustrating how folk art serves as a means to express the life stories and contributions of tribal heroes like Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Prof. S.M. Patnaik, Director of the Centre for Tribal Studies, emphasised the need for an India-centric approach to the study of tribes, outlining the vision for the newly established centre. He stressed the idea of interdisciplinary to make tribal studies holistic and meaningful.

### Exhibition

An exhibition titled 'The Contribution of Tribal Leaders of India in Nation-Building', was presented, highlighting the culturally significant heritage of tribal leadership.

### Film Screening

Ethnographic films focused on the indigenous knowledge systems of tribes were also screened, providing a comprehensive view of their cultural significance.

Students from tribal communities, enrolled in various courses, actively took part in the event donning their traditional attire.





## Elocution Competition | 24 November 2023

### Role of Tribal freedom fighters in Nation building

Centre for Tribal Studies, University of Delhi organised a day-long celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 24 November 2023. Students from different departments – Political Science, History, Sanskrit, Botany, Cluster Innovation Centre participated in the competition. Undergraduate students from different colleges of University of Delhi participated in this competition. They are:

- (i) Indraprastha college for Women
- (ii) Miranda House
- (iii) Sri Venkateswara College
- (iv) Hansraj College
- (v) Lakshmibai College
- (vi) Motilal Nehru College
- (vii) Dayal Singh College

Students spoke on the topic 'Role of Tribal freedom fighters in Nation building'. It covered the unsung tribal heroes from different parts of India - Sido Kanhu Murmu, Tilka Manjhi, Budhu Bhagat, Laxman Nayak, Komaram Bheem, Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu, Rani Gaidinliu, Rani Durgavati etc.



## Special Talk | 24 November 2023

### 'Memories of the tribal heroes in the freedom struggle and nation building'

On 24 November 2023 (afternoon), the Head of the Janapada Sampada Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, **Prof Anil Kumar**, who belongs to the Pradhan tribe in Telangana, delivered a special talk on '*Memories of the tribal heroes in the freedom struggle and nation building*'. In his deliberation, he appealed to the participants to be empathetic towards the causes of the tribes. He said that understanding of the contemporary Indian tribes needs a new terminology. The term 'Jana' or 'Janajati' comes closer to the etymology of tribal reality. Quoting Harsh Chouhan, the former chairperson of the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes, he said that even the 'Janajati Samuha' could be another possibility. The present-day discourse needs to be centred around decolonizing the concept of tribe.



**Special Talk | 14 March 2024**

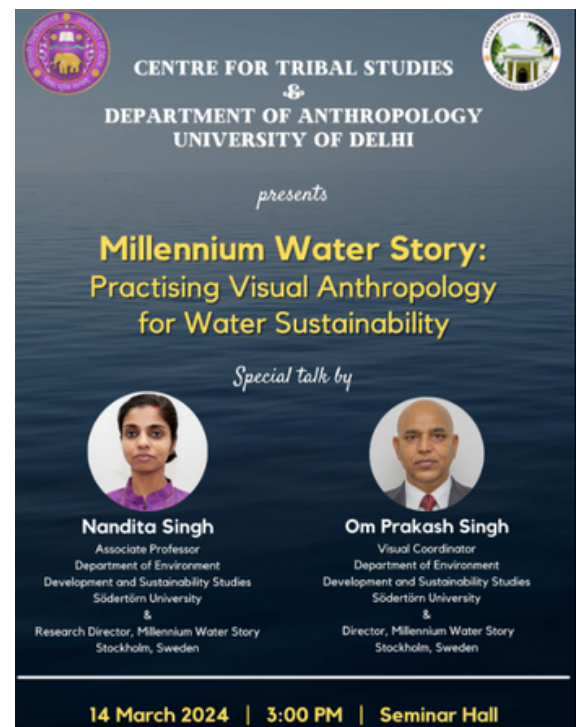
**Millennium Water Story: Practising Visual Anthropology for Water Sustainability'**

**Nandita Singh**

Associate Professor, Department of Environment, Development and Sustainability Studies, Södertörn University & Research Director, Millennium Water Story, Stockholm, Sweden

**Om Prakash Singh**

Visual Coordinator, Department of Environment, Development and Sustainability Studies, Södertörn University, & Director, Millennium Water Story, Stockholm, Sweden



The project 'The Millennium Water Story' stands as a testament to dedication towards knowledge creation for a sustainable future through the powerful medium of visual storytelling. In a world where the concept of sustainable development often seems like an oxymoron, social scientists are at the forefront, striving to bridge the gap between theory and practice, especially through a bottom-up approach. Through insightful photo essays on different tribal communities from Rajasthan and Nagaland, the speakers effectively showcased the intricacies and challenges of water sustainability in diverse contexts.

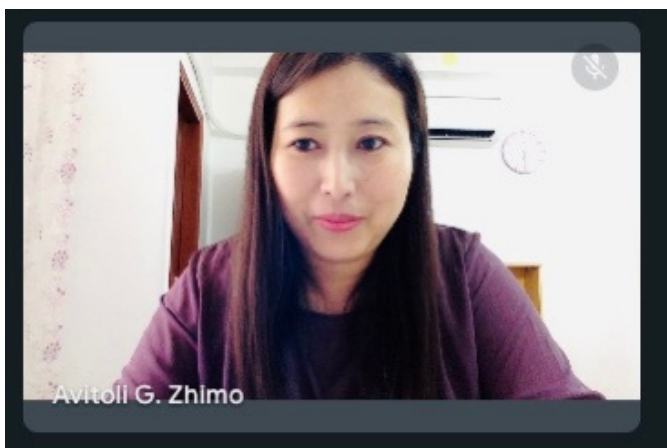
What sets this work apart is the deliberate choice of using black and white photography, which serves as a poignant representation of the complexities of life and the gravity of the water crisis. By stripping away the distractions of colour, they allow viewers to focus solely on the essence of the issue at hand. Through this monochromatic lens, they highlight not only the stark realities of water scarcity but also the resilience and resourcefulness of communities in managing local water resources.

One of the key insights gleaned from their work is the critical role of social capital in the management of indigenous water recharging technologies. Through their visually compelling narratives, the speakers effectively demonstrate how communities harness collective knowledge and social networks to implement sustainable water management practices. Their project serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of community-based approaches in addressing complex environmental challenges and paves the way for future research and action in the field of water sustainability.

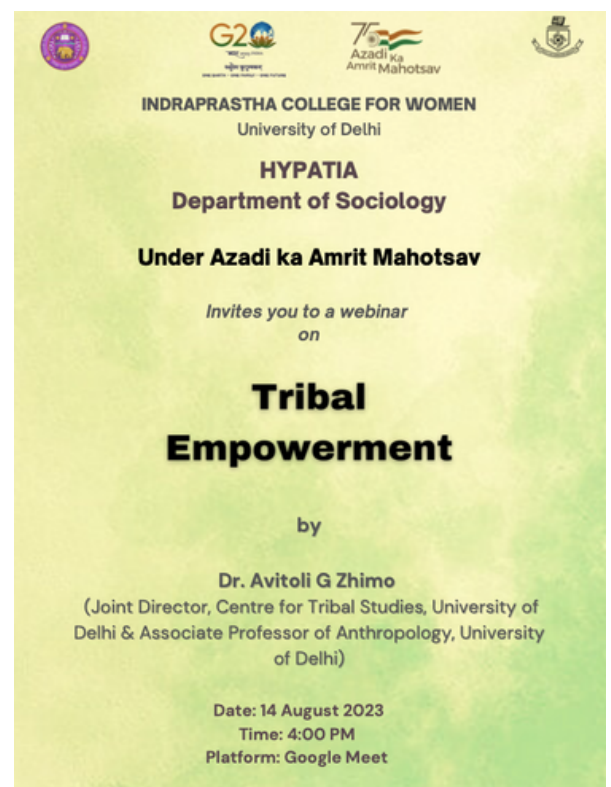
# Other academic activities



- Prof. S.M.Patnaik (Director, CTS, DU) chaired the Third Professor Vinay Kumar Srivastava Memorial Lecture on '*Trajectory of Tribal resistance in Odisha*' on 29 December 2023 during the 48th All India Sociological Conference at Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore.



- Dr. Avitoli G. Zhimo, Joint Director, Centre for Tribal Studies, delivered an invited lecture on '*Tribal Empowerment*' in a webinar organized by the Department of Sociology, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, on 14 August 2023





# Other academic activities

- Prof. S.M. Patnaik (Director, CTS) delivered an address on *Indian Tribes and their mention in Sanskrit Texts wrst Methodology of Studying them* during Acharya Jyoti Swarup Memorial Lecture organised by Department of Sanskrit, University of Delhi on 9 December 2023.



- Prof. S.M.Patnaik (Director, CTS, DU) delivered special address as Guest of Honour on *Tribal Study in India:Policy and Practice* at Sambalpur University, Odisha. 10.01.2024.
- Dr. Avitoli G Zhimo delivered an invited lecture on '*Our land and people- Cultural Heritage of North Eastern India*' 484th Orientation Course in line with NEP-2020 for in-service teachers from 30 January 2024 at Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) Headquarters, New Delhi.
- Dr. Avitoli G Zhimo delivered an invited lecture on '*Women in Indian Culture and Folk Traditions*' on the occasion of International Women's Day organised by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Regional Centre, Ranchi. 14 March 2024.





# Research Committee



L-R: Dr. Avitoli G. Zhimo, Dr. Seema Singh, Prof. V.S. Negi, Prof. K. Ratnabali, Prof. Payal Mago, Prof. Soumendhra Mohan Patnaik, Dr. Santosh Hasnu,

The first meeting of the Research Committee of Centre for Tribal Studies was held on 11th December 2023 at 3:00 PM in the room of the Head, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi. The members discussed and identified the following thrust areas for future research and documentation by the Centre for Tribal Studies.

- India-centric perspective to study tribe: Understanding tribe from Indian perspective; Decolonizing; Re-writing of tribal ethnographies; Restudy of tribes
- Role of Women in tribal societies
- Customary Law and its Interface with State Law
- Traditional Knowledge; GI tags
- Sustainable Practices
- Sacred Spaces & Spirituality
- Ethnoarchaeology and Oral History
- Infiltration and Conversion
- Dialect and Languages
- Skills and their Documentation: Interface with the market
- Cultural heritage: Identification and Protection

# Minor Research Projects 2024-2025

- Short-term minor projects were announced as per the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee. The following proposals were granted financial assistance on condition that the project's findings must be published in Scopus-indexed or UGC care journals.

Sl	Name of the PI	Title of the project	Amount sanctioned
1	<b>Prof. Kongbrailatpam Ratnabali</b> Faculty of Law	Understanding the cultural and spiritual landscape of 'Umang Lai' of Manipur and 'Orans' of Rajasthan and available legal protections	31,000/-
2	<b>Prof. Virender Negi</b> Department of Geography Shaheed Bhagat Singh College	Culture and Indigenous Conservation practices of the Lepcha community in the Sikkim Himalaya	31,000/-
3	<b>Dr. Ananya Barua</b> Associate Professor Department of Philosophy Hindu College	Kamakhya Temple, Indigenous Communities and Nilachal Hills: Evolution of a Sacred Space	31,000/-
4	<b>Dr. Achana Jamatia</b> Assistant Professor Department of Philosophy Ramanujan College	Sacred Space and Spirituality of Jamatia tribe	31,000/-
5	<b>Dr. Supreet Kaur</b> Department of Commerce Delhi School of Economics	Assessing the role of microfinance institutions in supporting tribal entrepreneurs	25,000/-
6	<b>Dr. Chetan</b> Department of Statistics Sri Venkateswara College University of Delhi	Achieving Sustainable Agriculture through Traditional Practices of Dongria Kondh of Niyamgiri Hills	25,000/-
7	<b>Dr. Shagun Agarwal</b> Department of Hindi Shyama Prasad Mukherji College for Women Delhi University	आदिवासी समाज में महिलाओं की भूमिका एवं स्थिति : विशेष सन्दर्भ पेरना और गड़िया लोहार समुदाय	25,000/-


 **Centre for Tribal Studies  
&  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Delhi**  
*presents a Special Talk on*

**Empowering Tribal Studies: Bridging Academia  
and Industry with Anthropology Skills**




**Dr. Ritu Gairola Khanduri**  
University of Texas, Arlington

**31 July 2024 | 3:30 PM | Seminar Hall**

 **दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय  
University of Delhi**


**CENTRE FOR TRIBAL STUDIES**  
*in collaboration with*  
**CENTRE FOR HIMALAYAN STUDIES**

*cordially invite you to a Public Lecture on*

**BODILY KNOWLEDGE OF CULTURAL PRACTICES**  
**Analytical Tools towards an Embodied Epistemology**

**Prof. Grit Kirstin Koeltzsch**  
Professor of Anthropology  
National University of Jujuy, Argentina

*Chair*  
**Prof. K. Ratnabali**  
Dean, Academic Affairs



**13 September 2024  
Friday, 4:00 PM**


**Room 105, Dream Building  
University of Delhi**

R.S.V.P

**Prof. Bindhy Wasini Pandey**  
Director  
Centre for Himalayan Studies

**Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik**  
Director  
Centre for Tribal Studies

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University of Delhi**

 **Centre for Tribal Studies (CTS), University of Delhi  
&  
Center for Indigenous and Colonial Studies (CEIC)  
National University of Jujuy, Argentina**  
*organise*

**INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON INDIGENOUS  
AND TRIBAL STUDIES**  
**Perspectives from Global South**

**10 Sept. 2024**  
**4:15 PM (India)**  
**7:45 AM (Argentina)**

**P.C. Biswas Hall  
Department of  
Anthropology**



*There is a need to "know" and exchange the scientific concerns on Indigenous and tribal studies within the global south, a category that is not only cultural but also of scientific policy, as it positions the social sciences and humanities in a constructive and significant contribution to the local context within an international context. The objective of this colloquium is to disseminate and discuss the progress of research by graduate students linked to both institutions, building an open and plural space at the local level to promote the discussion about social studies and humanistic studies in the region and contributing to the erudition of graduate students of Humanities and Social Sciences in India and Argentina. The event will be in **Hybrid Mode**.*

**SCAN FOR REGISTRATION**

*organised by*

**Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik**  
Director, Centre for Tribal Studies &  
Head, Department of Anthropology  
University of Delhi, India

**Prof. Grit Kirstin Koeltzsch**  
Director Research Unit  
Center for Indigenous and Colonial Studies (CEIC)  
National University of Jujuy, Argentina



Contact Us  
director@cts.du.ac.in

Visit Our Website  
cts.du.ac.in







**CENTRE FOR TRIBAL STUDIES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

*cordially invites you to a  
Public Lecture*

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE  
OF THE ISLAND OF BALI, INDONESIA**  
History, Ritual & Social Organisation



**Prof. Thomas Reuter**  
University of Melbourne

**FRIDAY  
20 SEPTEMBER 2024  
2:15 PM**

**BISWAS HALL  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

**Dr. Avitoli G Zhimo**  
Joint Director

**R.S.V.P**

**Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik**  
Director




**CENTRE FOR TRIBAL STUDIES  
&  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

Cordially invite you to a Distinguished Lecture on

**Locating Island Studies in India**  
A perspective from Majuli, Assam



**Dr. Simashree Bora**  
Department of Sociology  
Cotton University  
Guwahati, Assam

**20 December 2024  
3:00 PM  
Seminar Hall  
Department of Anthropology**

**R.S.V.P**

**Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik**  
Director, Centre for Tribal Studies  
Head, Department of Anthropology





## Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2024

The Centre for Tribal Studies (CTS) at the University of Delhi commemorated the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda by celebrating Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, on November 16, 2024. The event was honoured by the presence of Hon'ble Member of Parliament **Smt. S. Phangnon Konyak**, the first tribal woman from Nagaland elected to the Rajya Sabha and an esteemed alumnus of Delhi University. The event also featured captivating performances of tribal and folk dances, along with an inspiring skit about Birsa Munda, presented by students from the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Music, and Miranda House.

As a run-up to the main event, the Centre for Tribal Studies organized Essay writing and painting competitions on 14th Nov. 2024 at the Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, on the theme: '**Life and Works of Bhagwan Birsa Munda still remains a source of inspiration**'. The competition attracted over 200 UG and PG students from various colleges and departments of Delhi University.

### Winners of Essay Writing Competition:

1. Pratyashree Das, Department of Anthropology, DU
2. Vipraja Rao, Department of English, DU
3. Anusha Garg, Lady Shri Ram college
4. Priya Dwivedi, Miranda House
5. Salangkrita Sarma, Maitriyi college



### Winners of Painting Competition:

1. David Kamlianmang Simte, Rajdhani college
2. Saakshi Gurjar, Indraprastha College for Women
3. Harish Oraon, Ramanujan College
4. Ashutosh Kisku, Kirori Mal college
5. Puneet Verma, Hans Raj college
6. Juvaria Hashmi, Miranda House



**University of Delhi**  
Centre for Tribal Studies

*cordially invites you to*

**JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS 2024**

150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of  
**Bhagwan Birsa Munda**

*Patron*

**Prof. Yogesh Singh**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor  
University of Delhi

*Chief Guest*

**Smt. S Phangnon Konyak**  
Hon'ble Member of Parliament,  
Rajya Sabha

*Chairperson, Governing Body*

**Prof. Shri Prakash Singh**  
Director, South Campus

*Chair*

**Prof. Balaram Pani**  
Dean of Colleges

**16 November 2024**

**10:00 AM**

**Conference Centre**  
University of Delhi

**RSVP**

**Prof. Soumendra M Patnaik**  
Director, Centre for Tribal Studies

**Dr. Avitoli G Zhimo**  
Joint Director,  
Centre for Tribal Studies

**Highlights**

Cultural Performances

Screening of Reels on 'Tribes of India'

Prize Distribution for Essay and Painting Competition

Exhibition on the Life & Works of Bhagwan Birsa Munda



## Celebrating the Constitution Day: 26 November 2024

Centre for Tribal Studies and Department of Anthropology celebrated 78 years of India's democracy on the occasion of 26th November 2024, which is celebrated as Constitution Day. On this occasion, a panel discussion was organised with the purpose of making the students and other stakeholders aware of the fact that how the edifice of the nation is based on the Constitution of India.

In the beginning, Ms. Sonuja Nandinee Barik, PhD research scholar of the department, read out the preamble, setting the tone for the session. It was followed by an enlightening session. The panellists identified important attributes of the constitution by treating it as the most sacred text of India's democracy (Prof. R.P. Mitra). It marked that the constitution is the synthesis of the orientation of diverse cultures as far as the rule of law is concerned (Dr. D.V. Prasad) and that the individual responsibility as a good citizen constitutes the hallmark of constitutional values (Dr. Kennedy Singh). It also highlighted how Fundamental Rights as enshrined in the constitution need certain preconditions in terms of responsibility towards the nation (Dr Vipin Gupta), and the very fact that the Indian constitution has survived the test of time making us feel that it is not only a mere text but represents the very identity of Indians (Dr Mitashree Srivastava). Following this, Ms Sudeshna Biswas, a senior research scholar of the department, read out the eleven fundamental duties to awaken a sense of duty.

The names of fifteen extraordinary women who were part of the constituent committee and their significant contributions were also discussed (Dr Abigail Lalnuneng). The constitutional provisions under the Fifth and Sixth Schedule, for the administration of Scheduled Tribes and Area, ensuring the protection of their interest was read out by Ms. Sandhya Bhatt, research scholar of the department. The panel discussion was attended by faculty members of the department, interns connected to the Centre for Tribal Studies and students of Department of Physics and Chemistry who are pursuing common papers in Anthropology along with students of Forensic Science. Prof. S M. Patnaik, Director, Centre for Tribal Studies chaired the session. He concluded the panel discussion emphasizing that we need to pay our sincere gratitude to members of the Constituent Assembly, especially to the drafting committee headed by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He also pointed out that there is a need to organise a national consultation on the Tribes and the Indian Constitution. Mr. Dileep Kumar, research scholar of the department, facilitated the Oath of Allegiance on behalf of everyone revering the importance of the Constitution. The event concluded with the National Anthem by all.





### National Conference on 'INDIAN TRIBES, CONSTITUTION, AND GOVERNANCE' 25-26 March 2025

This conference seeks to critically engage with constitutional, legal, social, and policy dimensions related to tribal rights in India. It aims to provide an interdisciplinary platform to examine the gaps between legal frameworks and ground realities, ensuring a holistic understanding of the tribal experience in contemporary India.

#### Key Themes

- Tribal Autonomy and Governance: 5th & 6th Schedules
- Constitutional Provisions for Tribal Welfare
- PESA and Decentralized Tribal Self-Governance
- Forest Rights and Land Ownership in Tribal Communities
- Legal Systems: Tribal Customary Laws and State Governance
- Landmark Judicial Decisions on Tribal Welfare and Rights
- Representation of Tribal Identity in Media
- Political Participation and Representation
- Tribal Identity and Ethnicity
- Tribal Struggles: Resistance and Challenges
- Tribal Communities and Globalisation
- Issues and Challenges in Tribal Development
- Reframing Tribal Autonomy: Policy and Future Directions



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University of Delhi



**CENTRE FOR TRIBAL STUDIES  
&  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
Indian Tribes, Constitution, and Governance

**25 - 26 March, 2025**

Venue  
Department of Anthropology



Patron  
**Prof. Yogesh Singh**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor  
University of Delhi



Guest of Honour (Inaugural)  
**Prof. Nupur Tiwari**  
Special Director  
National Tribal Research Institute



Chief Guest (Inaugural)  
**Prof. Debajyoti Choudhury**  
Dean, Faculty of Science  
University of Delhi



Keynote Speaker  
**Prof. Virginius Xaxa**  
Formerly Professor at  
Delhi School of Economics



Valedictory Address  
**Prof. Siva Prasad Rambhatla**  
Former Honorary Professor, CDLTR  
University of Hyderabad



Chief Guest (Valedictory)  
**Prof. Kishore K Basa**  
Chairman, National Monuments  
Authority of India, New Delhi



Conferencing Chair  
**Prof. S. M. Patra**  
Director, Centre for Tribal Studies  
Head, Department of Anthropology



Co-Chair  
**Prof. Manoj K. Singh**  
Professor, Department of Anthropology  
Joint Professor, University of Delhi



Co-Chair  
**Dr. Anshul S. Zia**  
Joint Director, Centre for Tribal Studies  
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology



Co-Chair  
**Dr. M. Kennedy**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Anthropology

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
Indian Tribes, Constitution, and Governance  
25 - 26 March, 2025

**PLENARY SPEAKERS**



**Prof. Sukant Chaudhury**  
Sociology  
University of Lucknow



**Prof. Nita Mathur**  
Sociology, IGNOU



**Prof. Anil Kumar**  
Head, Janapada Sampada  
IGNCA



**Prof. Nilika Mehrotra**  
Centre for the Study of Social  
Systems, JNU



**Prof. Abhik Ghosh**  
Department of Anthropology  
Panjab University



**Prof. Avanish Kumar**  
Dean, Management  
Development Institute



**Naushina Ali**  
Senior Advocate  
Chhattisgarh High Court



**Prof. Diptendu Chatterjee**  
Head, Anthropology  
University of Calcutta



**Dr. Jyotirmayee Tudu**  
Centre for Political Studies  
School of Social Sciences,  
JNU



**Dr. Archana Shukla Mukherjee**  
CEO, Change Alliance Pvt. Ltd.  
New Delhi

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
Indian Tribes, Constitution, and Governance  
25 - 26 March, 2025

**INVITED SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Avitoli G Zimo**  
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology,  
Joint Director, Centre for Tribal Studies  
University of Delhi

"Indigenous Governance System"

**Dr. Chitra Kadam**  
Vice President Operations, ANCOR LABS, NCR

"Local governance: Comparison between  
Governmental and Non- governmental initiative in  
Sihore, Madhya Pradesh"

**Dr. Lovitoli Jimo**  
Gender Studies, Ambedkar University

"Women representation in Politics: Challenges,  
Progress and Pathway to inclusive policy and  
governance"

**Dr. Khirad C. Moharana**  
Anthropology, University of Allahabad

"Rights of Nature, Tribes and Constitution of  
India: Some Critical Reflections"

**Dr. Ramesh Sahani**  
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology  
University of Delhi

"Issues related to Health and Nutritional  
Development among the Tribes of Eastern and  
Central India"

**Dr. Anil Kumar Biswas**  
Political Science, University of Burdwan & Indian  
Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla

"Livelihood Challenges of Tea Tribes in India: A  
Study of Western Duars Region"

**Dr. Ubaid Ahmed**  
Anthropology, University of Kashmir

"Language and Identity Politics: Inclusion,  
Exclusion and Policy dynamics with reference to  
the pastoral tribes of Jammu and Kashmir"

**Prof. Rukmini Sen**  
Sociology, Ambedkar University Delhi

**Dr. Rajanikant Pandey**  
Anthropology, Central University of Jharkhand

"Art of Being Governed: Negotiating  
Constitutional Identity of Tribe in Uttar Pradesh"

**Dr. Sumit Saurabh Srivastava**  
Centre of Development Studies, University of  
Allahabad

"Revisiting Tribal Development Philosophy in Neo-  
Liberal India"

# Tribal Studies in NEP 2020

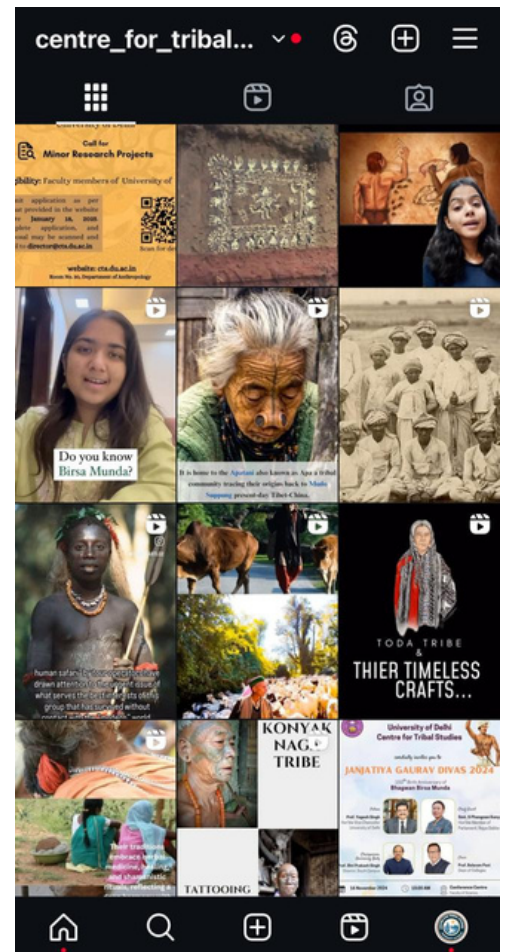
## Internship

As part of NEP 2020 recommendations, University undergraduate students may opt for internships in one of the semesters. In this regard, CTS accepts students interested in tribal studies for internship. The first batch of 12 students was selected from Lakshmibai College in 2024. They were evaluated based on their performance in reviewing literature, organising events, creating content for digital platforms, etc. The 60-second reels created by the interns are uploaded on social media and websites. These reels were created based on reviewed latest journal articles on tribes.

Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/@ctsDU>


Instagram: @CENTRE FOR TRIBAL STUDIES DU


Facebook: Centre for Tribal Studies,  
University of Delhi



## VAC paper at UG level

Centre for Tribal Studies offers a Value Addition Course on 'Tribes of India' wef 2024.

**दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय**  
University of Delhi

**75**  
आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव

**Value Addition Courses (VAC)**

**Dashboard**  
About VACs  
Message from VC  
Message from Chairman  
VAC Steering Committee  
VAC Committee  
VAC course Coordinators  
VAC Notifications  
List of VACs  
Events

**Tribes of India**

Credits 02	Lecture 01	Tutorial 0
Practical/Practice 01	Eligibility criteria Pass in Class 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-requisite of the course NIL

**Learning Objectives**

- Understand the diversity of tribal cultures and their interface with the Indian civilisational values and ethos.
- Analyse the various tribal cosmological templates in understanding the eternity of Indian culture.
- Apply the aesthetics of tribal life as a key for holistic and sustainable living.



- Establishment of Bhagwan Birsa Chair as per UGC guidelines.

- **Research and Education Plans**

The Centre for Tribal Studies shall seek to roll out research and education plans that involve the following tentative Research Projects and activities:

- Role of Tribal Leaders in India's Freedom Struggle*: This research project aims to explore the often-overlooked contributions of tribal leaders to India's struggle for freedom. The research will examine historical records, oral histories, and archival materials to provide a comprehensive understanding of the diverse ways in which tribal leaders across different regions of India actively participated in and influenced the freedom movement.
- Ethnographic study of tribal communities*. This kind of research will involve ethnographic fieldwork to document and analyse the various rituals, ceremonies, and cultural practices that are pertinent in maintaining social cohesion, identity, and spirituality within tribal societies. Restudies of classical ethnographies of Indian tribes would be theoretically and methodologically innovative.
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems*: Various methods shall be used to document indigenous knowledge systems, i.e., traditional medicinal practices, ecological knowledge, biodiversity and traditional craftsmanship, among tribal communities. This research seeks to safeguard and rejuvenate endangered cultural traditions while promoting the transfer of knowledge between generations.
- Development Interventions on Tribal Livelihoods*: This research will examine the impact of development projects such as infrastructure development, conservation initiatives, and social welfare programs, on the livelihoods and socio-economic well-being of tribal communities. The benefits, challenges, and unintended consequences of such interventions will be explored in detail.

## Collaborations and Partnerships

Research collaboration has been agreed upon in principle with the Centre for Endangered Languages , Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi. Research partnership is being worked out with other Research institutions. Fostering meaningful collaborations with tribal communities, government agencies, NGOs, academic partners, media organizations, and international networks, by engaging in the following activities:

- i) Organising workshops in collaboration with tribal communities to understand their needs and aspirations. These workshops will serve as platforms for dialogue, co-creation, and partnership building, ensuring that research and outreach activities are informed by community perspectives and participation.
- ii) Make strategic partnerships with relevant government agencies, such as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and State-level tribal welfare departments, State Tribal Research Institutes, tribal universities to leverage resources, expertise, and networks for the implementation of research projects and policy advocacy initiatives which will eventually lead to the promotion of the rights, well-being, and development of tribal communities.
- iii) Collaborate with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organizations, and grassroots movements working on tribal issues to strengthen the Centre's research and outreach activities.
- iv) Establish collaborations with academic institutions, research centres, and scholars working on tribal studies to promote interdisciplinary research, knowledge exchange, and capacity building. This can be achieved by organizing joint research seminars, conferences, and publications, facilitating collaboration and mutual learning among researchers and practitioners from diverse disciplinary backgrounds.
- v) Partner with media organizations to disseminate research findings, raise awareness, and promote greater public understanding and empathy.

## DU sets up Centre for Tribal Studies

Soumendra Mohan Patnaik appointed as Director and Avitoli G. Zhimo Joint Director of CTS

August 10, 2023 12:57 am | Updated 12:57 am IST - New Delhi

THE HINDU BUREAU

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## DU sets up Centre for Tribal Studies

Soumendra Mohan Patnaik appointed as Director and Avitoli G. Zhimo Joint Director of CTS

August 10, 2023 12:57 am | Updated 12:57 am IST - New Delhi

THE HINDU BUREAU

To mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, Delhi University announced the establishment of the Centre for Tribal Studies (CTS) on Wednesday. In a statement, the university said the CTS would work towards understanding the diversity of tribal practices, culture, language, religion, economy, commonalities and relationship with nature through an India-centric perspective. It has appointed Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, Head, Department of Anthropology, as the Director of the new centre and Avitoli G. Zhimo, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, as the Joint Director. At present, the CTS will function from the Department of Anthropology and DU said it aspires to provide insightful academic impetus to public policy with special reference to conservation, development, forest, and special health needs.

"The inception of the Centre for Tribal Studies will be a transformative step in advancing and addressing the contemporary issues relevant to the tribal communities in terms of their overall development and well-being in present as well as in future progression. "The establishment of the CTS will endeavour in highlighting the role and contribution of many tribal leaders throughout Indian history and also bring to light the efforts of many unsung tribal leaders in India's struggle for freedom," the university said.

It added that the centre will get inputs from two external experts, T.V. Kattimani, Vice-Chancellor, Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh, and Chander Mohan Parsheera, Director, Institute of Tribal Studies, Himachal Pradesh University. "CTS will study and document various traditions of Indian tribes and their indigenous knowledge. It will also play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between the needs of Denotified, Nomadic tribes, and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)," it added.

News / Cities / Delhi / DU establishes Centre for Tribal Studies, to have 'all-India perspective'

## DU establishes Centre for Tribal Studies, to have 'all-India perspective'

The Centre for Tribal Studies will function from the Department of Anthropology, DU, an official statement said.

By: Express News Service

Delhi | Updated: August 10, 2023 12:06 IST

NewsGuard

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## दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी सेंटर फॉर ट्राइबल स्टडीज और आईजीएनसीए ने मनाया जनजातीय गौरव दिवस

सेवादाता

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के जनजातीय अध्ययन केंद्र ने इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र (आईजीएनसीए) के सहयोग से भगवान विरसा मुंडा की जयंती मनाने के लिए 15 नवंबर, 2023 को जनजातीय गौरव दिवस मनाया।

कार्यक्रम के दौरान, साउथ कैपस के निदेशक प्रोफेसर श्री प्रकाश सिंह ने दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में जनजातीय अध्ययन केंद्र की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर जोर दिया, और भारत के स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में आदिवासियों के महत्वपूर्ण योगदान के बारे में शिक्षा जगत और व्यापक जनता के भीतर जागरूकता की कमी पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने भारत की जनजातियों के अनुसंधान और दस्तावेजीकरण को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से आगामी फेलोशिप और परियोजनाओं के साथ केंद्र के लिए 50 लाख रुपये के बीज अनुदान की घोषणा की।



मुख्य अतिथि प्रोफेसर बलराम पाणि ने भगवान विरसा मुंडा द्वारा कम उम्र में प्रदर्शित अनुशासन और सटीकता पर प्रकाश डाला। समानताएं खींचते हुए, उन्होंने कृतब मीनार में लौह स्तंभ और कोणार्क मंदिर के घटकों के निर्माण में शामिल आदिवासी समुदायों के पास मौजूद वैज्ञानिक ज्ञान को स्पष्ट किया, और स्वदेशी

आदिवासी ज्ञान की प्रासंगिकता पर जोर दिया। प्रसिद्ध लोक कलाकार एवं नाट्य निर्देशक श्री. अनिरुद्ध डी. वानकर ने झंडीपट्टी रंगभूमि पर एक जानकारीपूर्ण व्याख्यान दिया, जिसमें बताया गया कि कैसे लोक कला भगवान विरसा मुंडा जैसे आदिवासी नायकों की जीवन कहानियों और योगदान को व्यक्त करने के साधन के रूप में कार्य करती है।

जनजातीय अध्ययन केंद्र के निदेशक प्रोफेसर एसएम पटनायक ने नव स्थापित केंद्र के दृष्टिकोण को रेखांकित करते हुए जनजातियों के अध्ययन के लिए भारत-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने जनजातीय अध्ययन को समग्र बनाने के लिए अंतःविषयकता के विचार पर जोर दिया।

राष्ट्र-निर्माण में भारत के जनजातीय नेताओं का योगदान शीर्षक से एक प्रदर्शनी प्रस्तुत की गई, जिसमें जनजातियों ने तुल्य सांस्कृतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण विरासत पर प्रकाश डाला गया। जनजातियों की स्वदेशी ज्ञान प्रणालियों पर केंद्रित नुवंशविज्ञान फिल्में भी प्रदर्शित की गईं, जो उनके सांस्कृतिक महत्व का एक व्यापक दृष्टिकोण प्रदान करती हैं। विभिन्न पाठ्यक्रमों में नामांकित आदिवासी समुदायों के छात्रों ने अपनी पारंपरिक पोशाक पहनकर इस कार्यक्रम में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लिया।



# Expected Outcomes

The Centre for Tribal Studies is expected to have an impact on tribal empowerment, academic research, and community engagement.

i) Through capacity-building initiatives, skill development programmes and opportunities, the tribal communities will be empowered socio-economically.

ii) Research on tribal issues, culture and development will contribute to the academic understanding of tribal societies.

iii) Quality publications and Research Reports can inform policymaking in the areas of tribal governance, sustainable development, and cultural preservation.

iv) Interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange will foster creativity and cross-pollination of ideas.

v) Participatory approach to development of tribal communities.

vi) Educational outreach programmes, and culture revitalization initiatives will empower the tribal community to own their identity, thereby celebrating their cultural traditions, language and customs with a clear-cut vision for future in the *Viksit Bharat*.

