

Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi
& Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

Two Days Janjatiya Gaurav (Tribal Pride) National Seminar

JANJATIYA CONTRIBUTIONS IN SHAPING THE HISTORY OF BHARAT: REFLECTIONS IN CENTRAL PROVINCES

5th & 6th August 2025



In Collaboration with : Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) under its
Scheme to Commemorate Birsa Munda's 150th Birth Anniversary.

Venue: Auditorium, Gondwana University, Gadchiroli



Organized by : Post Graduate Teaching Department of English & Tribal Studies Center,
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

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India's tribal communities have played a profound role in shaping the social, cultural and historical fabric of the nation. Their traditions, oral histories, resistance movements and eco-centric worldviews form an essential part of Bharat's civilizational identity. In the spirit of commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of the legendary tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda, this seminar seeks to honour and explore the rich legacy, resilience, and contributions of tribal communities across time.

The Two Days National Seminar on the theme “Janjatiya Contributions in Shaping the History of Bharat: Reflections in Central Provinces” aspires to be a vibrant academic and cultural platform. It aims to bring together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from across disciplines to engage in critical discussions on tribal heritage, languages, literature, art, rights, and sustainable practices. This event offers a unique opportunity to recognize, reflect upon, and celebrate the indelible impact of tribal identities on the nation's soul.

Objectives of the Seminar

- To recognize and celebrate the contributions of tribal communities in shaping the history and culture of Bharat.
- To provide a platform for scholars, researchers, and students to discuss and share knowledge on tribal heritage.
- To promote awareness about the importance of preserving and promoting tribal cultures.
- To foster interdisciplinary research and collaboration in the field of tribal studies.



Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

Gondwana University is catering to the educational aspirations of the Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts. This region, though geographically central, has historically suffered from academic and economic backwardness and persistent Naxal unrest, largely due to a lack of infrastructure. The university is committed to addressing these challenges by raising the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) through innovative and inclusive initiatives.

Key Initiatives of Gondwana University include:

- Free education and hostel facilities are available for all PG students on campus.
- Veer Baburao Shedmake Earn & Learn Scheme for PG students.
- Training of Gram Sabhas under the EKAL Project on Minor Forest Produce.
- Job-oriented programs introduced in Model Degree Colleges.
- Youth training in bamboo and allied technologies.
- Research Fellowships on Tribal Culture & History Documentation for Gadchiroli & Chandrapur districts.
- Spoken Gondi Language Programs and standardization of a multilingual dictionary by PGTD of History.
- Establishment of CoPRA (Center of Policy Research & Advocacy) for evaluating and influencing government policies by Tribal Studies Center.
- 'University at our village' : Degree program initiative.

Post Graduate Teaching Department of English

Established in 2012, the Post Graduate Teaching Department (PGTD) of English at Gondwana University, Gadchiroli has been a catalyst for academic excellence and social empowerment, especially among the underprivileged communities of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli. Committed to inclusive and research-driven education, the department has launched several key initiatives, including the Know Age Series (60+ online lectures) and the Community Outreach Program that immerses students in tribal life and culture. PGTD English actively contributes to curriculum development, skill-building workshops, and teacher training aligned with NEP-2020. It collaborates with global and local institutions such as the Hornby Trust (UK) and the Tribal Studies Center (TSC) on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and tribal research. With a track record of student achievements, national-level conferences, and ICSSR-sponsored seminars, the department continues to lead in the fields of Tribal studies, tribal language, culture, and traditional knowledge documentation & introduced papers Dalit literature, Gender Studies & Women Studies in syllabi.

Tribal Studies Center, (आदिवासी अध्यासन केंद्र)

The Tribal Studies Center (TSC) at Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, is a dedicated research and outreach unit committed to the documentation, preservation, and promotion of tribal cultures, languages, and indigenous knowledge systems. TSC has organized national-level workshops, including a significant one on the Standardization of Gondi and Madia languages, and has announced research fellowships starting from 2025 for the documentation of tribal culture and history in the districts of Gadchiroli and Chandrapur. It has also established CoPRA (Centre of Policy Research and Advocacy) to assess the impact of government policies and provide region-specific recommendations. Engaging in interdisciplinary research, the Center explores areas such as tribal history, oral traditions, indigenous art forms, and socio-political issues affecting tribal communities. TSC actively supports scholars through fellowships, facilitates fieldwork in remote tribal regions, and organizes national seminars, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives in collaboration with academic departments and grassroots institutions.

Guest Speakers



PADMA SHRI. JAGESHWAR YADAV

Tribal Activist & Professor of Practice
Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University,
Raipur, Chhattisgarh



DR. CHITTARANJAN BHOI

Dean, School of Comparative Tribal
Languages and Literatures;
Kalinga Institute of Social Science,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha



SHRI. VAIBHAV SURANGE

Yuva Pramukh
Akhil Bharti Vanwasi Kalyan Ashram,
New Delhi



DR. SHYAM KORETI

Dean, Humanities
Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj
Nagpur University, Nagpur



DR. DEVAJI TOFA

Tribal Activist & Social Worker
Lekha Mendha,
Gadchiroli



DR. PALASH KUMAR NATH

Dept of Language and Linguistics
Anundoram Borooah Institute of
Language, Art and Culture (ABILAC)
Guwahati, Assam



Sessions Schedule

Day 1: August 5, 2025

9:00 AM: Registration

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Inaugural Session

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM: Session 1 Key Note – Birsa Munda & Janjati Contribution in Indian History: Shri. Vaibhav Surange, Yuva Pramukh, Akhil Bharti Vanwasi Kalyan Ashram, Delhi

1:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Session 2 – Contributions of Tribal Communities in Shaping the History and Culture of Bharat (Birhor Community, Chhattisgarh) : Padma shri. Jageshwar Yadav, Professor of Practice, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM: Session 3 – Nuances of the Gond Tribal uprisings of Middle India : Dr. Shyam Koreti, Dean Humanities, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Session 4 – Voices on the Verge: Perspectives from Northeast India: Dr. Palash Kumar Nath, Dept of Language and Linguistics, Guwahati, Assam

06:00 -08:00 - Cultural Event



Registration

Seminar Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/rBKP9KhMzMzMcCo6RA6>

Day 2: August 6, 2025

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Session 5 – Paper Presentation on Janjati Gaurav.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Session 6 – Tribal Research Fellowship Presentation, Tribal Studies Center, GUG

12:00 AM – 1:30 PM: Session 7 – The Undying Legacy of Birsa Munda: Crafting the Spirit of New India: Dr. Chittaranjan Bhoi, Dean, School of Comparative Tribal Languages, KISS-DU.

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM: Session 8 – Open Discussion Forum: Dr. Devaji Tofa, Tribal Activist & Social Worker, Lekha Mendha, Gadchiroli

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM: Valedictory Session



Patrons

Dr. Prashant Bokare

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

Dr. Shriram Kawale

Hon'ble Pro Vice-Chancellor
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

Dr. Anil Hirekhan

Registrar
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

Dr. Shyam Khandare

Dean, Humanities
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

Organizing Committee

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Janjatiya Gaurav (Tribal Pride) Seminar

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Advisory Board, Tribal Studies Center

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