International Conference on

Reclaiming Roots: The Adivasi Question and the Role of Media, Movements, Policy, and Politics in Development ceremonial celebration of " Janajati Gourav Divas as 150th birthday of noted freedom fighter Bhagaban Birsa Munda"

15-17 Nov, 2024 at Ravenshaw university cuttak in collaboration with ABV-IIITM, Gwalior

INTRODUCTION

While development aims to improve lives, it has often ignored the voices of indigenous communities like the Adivasis in India. Even with legal protections, Adivasis continue to face challenges such as land loss, cultural suppression, and economic exclusion. This conference, **Reclaiming Roots: The Adivasi Question**, will explore how media, social movements, policies, and politics affect the development and well-being of Adivasi communities.

Our goal is to create meaningful discussions about the rights and aspirations of Adivasis while also looking for ways to include their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge in today's governance and development policies. Participants from various fields—scholars, activists, policymakers, and media professionals—will come together to share ideas and identify practical ways to address challenges related to land ownership, resource management, social justice, and public representation.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Explore the historical and current challenges faced by Adivasi communities.
- Understand how media influences public narratives around Adivasis and their issues.
- Evaluate policies that impact Adivasi rights, land ownership, and participation in governance.
- Highlight the role of social movements in promoting Adivasi engagement in democratic processes.
- Develop strategies to preserve cultural roots and incorporate indigenous knowledge into development practices.

THEMATIC SESSIONS

SESSION 1: HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND THE ADIVASI QUESTION

This session will focus on the long history of struggles Adivasi communities have faced—like losing their land, cultural suppression, and exclusion from economic opportunities. It will also explore how colonial and post-colonial policies have impacted their lives. Discussions will highlight the value of traditional knowledge and how it can be part of sustainable development today.

SESSION 2: MEDIA REPRESENTATIONS AND ADIVASI ISSUES

Media plays a big role in shaping how people perceive Adivasi communities. This session will explore how media can either promote stereotypes or amplify authentic Adivasi voices. We'll look at the challenges and opportunities that mainstream and digital media present in portraying Adivasi identities fairly. New media platforms will also be discussed as tools for advocacy and raising awareness.

SESSION 3: POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND ADIVASI RIGHTS

Policies have a huge impact on Adivasi communities, especially in areas like land rights and resource management. This session will review existing policies and identify the gaps that limit Adivasi empowerment. Case studies will help us understand how certain policies have either supported or harmed these communities. We will also explore ways to ensure Adivasi participation in governance and decision-making processes.

SESSION 4: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND ADIVASI ADVOCACY

Grassroots movements have been crucial in fighting for Adivasi rights. This session will feature case studies of successful movements in India and beyond. We'll also look at the role of NGOs and civil society in supporting these efforts. Discussions will focus on strategies for building coalitions with other marginalized communities to strengthen advocacy and bring about real change.

SESSION 5: RECLAIMING CULTURAL ROOTS AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Adivasi culture and traditional knowledge systems are central to their identity. This session will explore how these elements can be preserved and integrated into development strategies. We'll discuss how traditional practices can help create sustainable solutions and strengthen resilience. Case studies of cultural revival initiatives will show how indigenous knowledge can fit into modern practices.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The conference aims to build a better understanding of the challenges Adivasi communities face and the opportunities for inclusive development. It will offer a platform for scholars, activists, policymakers, and media professionals to collaborate and create lasting networks for change.

Key outcomes will include:

- Policy recommendations to enhance Adivasi rights and participation in governance.
- Media strategies to ensure better representation of Adivasi voices.
- Stronger alliances between stakeholders supporting Adivasi causes.
- Greater awareness of how indigenous knowledge can contribute to sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

This conference is an important step toward recognizing the value of Adivasi voices in development. It emphasizes the need for policies and media representations that respect their contributions. By encouraging meaningful discussions and fostering collaboration, the conference aims to promote practices that reflect the rights and aspirations of Adivasi people.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite abstracts for presentations, panels, and workshops aligned with the conference themes. Submissions should include a title, a 250-300 word summary, and a brief bio of the presenter(s). Please send submissions to **rkbpsych@gmail.com** by **7th November 2024.**Information regarding selection by 9th nevember.

CONFERENCE VENUE

15-17 Nov in Ravenshaw University, Cuttack

Book your tickets for Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. Both cities are popularly known for their cultural heritage and historical significance. Please remember Puri is about 60 KM from Bhubaneswar airport and railway station, and Cuttack is about 80 KM from Puri. Please make a wake-up mind trip to Odisha! Our team will be there 24 hours to host you and provide guidance.