# National Seminar on
# “Tribal Wisdom in Sustainable Resource Use and Conservation”

**(March 06-07, 2025)**

**Organized by**
**Birsa Munda Chair**

**Indira Gandhi National Tribal University**
**Amarkantak 484 887, Madhya Pradesh**

**Sponsored by**
**University Grants Commission, New Delhi**

**Background:** The tribal populace in India constitutionally recognized as "Scheduled Tribes" count to be 10.43 crore and constitute about 8.60% of the total population of the country. In 30 States/UTs, till date, 705 Scheduled Tribes have been notified out of which 75 are notified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The tribal ecosystem is perpetuated through culture, which develops tools, technologies and innovative techniques for sustaining their production system in balance with their social heritage, economic conditions and ecological specificities. These culturally evolved and socially patterned ecosystem tools, techniques and technologies constitute integral parts of appropriate innovative strategies and practices, otherwise known as tribal wisdom or indigenous knowledge system, which effectively conserves resources, identifies opportunities for their optimal use and contributes to the sustenance of the people. This wisdom, evolved over long periods of time based on necessities and experiences through trial and error, is intricately linked with the natural environment. Understanding the tribal wisdom is of paramount importance in their sustainable development, as it has helped evolve adaptive strategies to make effective use of natural resources. Tribal wisdom is an important natural resource that has enormous potential to facilitate the process of their development in cost effective and sustainable ways.

However, the tribal wisdom or their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (TKIP) on resource use and conservation, specifically in productive sectors like land, agriculture, forestry, grazing and animal husbandry, horticulture, agro based cottage industry, etc., are fast disappearing, leading to loss of resources, particularly the biological diversity. Tribal wisdom or the TKIP is being threatened and eroded by growing tide of technification.

Therefore, this National Seminar is an humble initiative to have some idea on the status of loss of resources and the disappearance of tribal wisdom or their traditional knowledge system, which need to be systematically identified and quantified. The seminar will suggest steps required to be taken somehow to reverse this trend.

**Themes**

**Theme 1:** Tribal wisdom/knowledge system: Tribal wisdom/knowledge system in utilization of resources, conservation of resources, value addition and validation of traditional processes and practices in enhancing resource prospectives, best practices, innovations, IPR, etc.

**Theme 2:** Tribal culture & heritage: Customary laws, good governance; cultural heritage in gender empowerment & equality, social cohesion & inclusion, environmental sustainability, climate change resilience, sustainable development.

**Theme 3:** Culture and development trade-offs: Opportunities for developing culture linked employment avenues through value addition of agriculture, forest products, cultivation of medicinal & aromatic plants (MAPs) and kitchen gardens, promotion of horticulture, organic farming, development of eco-tourism, etc.

**Theme 4**: Building participatory development alternatives: Long-term natural and cultural interactions, dependency on local level governance systems resulting into traditions of participatory, culture based management of natural resources.

**Theme 5:** Economy & livelihood: cultural innovations in poverty alleviation, economic and social equity, skill development, entrepreneurship development, traditional technologies, their innovation and backstopping, simple low-cost technologies in tribal economy.

**Time Line:**
Date of conductance of the seminar: **March 06-07, 2025**
Last date for receiving abstracts: **February 15, 2025**
Last date for receiving full length paper: **February 28, 2025**

**Abstract and Full Papers:** Papers are invited for oral presentation in respect of any one of the proposed themes. The abstract and full papaer should be submitted in English language, within 300 words and 5000 words, respectively, typed in MS Word, in 12 font size, 'Times New Roman', with 1.5 line spacing. Proper title, author's name and its affiliation should be mentioned in the abstract/full paper and if there are multiple authors, the paper presenter should be underlined. The paper should be based on original research work. The abstract should reach the Convener through an Email attachment to **bmchair.igntu@gmail.com** copied to **chairprofessor.bmc@igntu.ac.in** latest by **February 15, 2025** and the Full length paper should reach on or before **February 28, 2025.**

**Travel, Accommodation and Food:** Individuals, who have submitted the full length paper, will only be invited to present their paper in the Seminar and will be considered for reimbursement of their travel expenses, which will be restricted to travel by shortest routes by bus, train (III AC) and shared taxi on production of original tickets. Local logistics (accommodation, travel and food) will be provided by the organizers free of cost. Accommodation will be provided from the evening of March 05, 2025 to the morning of March 08, 2025.

**About the University:** Established in 2007, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), the only national tribal University in India with a Pan-Indian characteristics, caters to the tribals' long cherished dream of higher education by providing avenues of higher education and research facilities. The University is engaged in disseminating and advancing of knowledge, evolving tribal centric development models based on empirical research, enhancing skill of tribal communities to enable them in managing and administering their resources and evolving appropriate measures for promoting innovations in teaching learning process in interdisciplinary studies and research.

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## Registration Form

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Mode of Journey:_____

Accommodation Required: Yes ( ) No ( )

If Yes, Dates of requiring Accommodation:

From _____ To _____

**Signature of the Participant**