

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS  
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Special lecture on **“Development of PVTGs in Odisha: Critical issues, Initiatives and Road Ahead”**

A special lecture on **“Development of PVTGs in Odisha: Critical issues, Initiatives and Road Ahead”** was organized by the Department of Economics, Central University of Odisha on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2025. **Prof. Minaketan Behera**, Professor of Economics & Chairperson, Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi was the invited speaker. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi conveyed his best wishes for the programme.

The programme started with the Welcome Address by Dr. Minati Sahoo, HoD (I/c), Department of Economics, who also introduced the guest. This was followed by introduction of the topic by Prof. RathiKanta Kumbhar, Professor, Dept. of Economics.

Speaker of the programme, Prof. Minaketan Behera started his lecture by explaining the indicators for identification of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) from the tribal communities. He described the background of the topic by highlighting the data regarding the number of tribes, PVTGS in India and Odisha. He underlined different challenges faced by the PVTGs such as sources of livelihood, climate change crisis, low literacy rates, gaps in literacy rates and drop-out rates, NTFPs marketing, loss of control over natural resources etc. He discussed in details the government initiatives like micro projects for the development of various PVTGs. He covered various dimensions of education, health sector, livelihood of the PVTGs. He concluded by suggesting various ways for the development of the PVTGs including engaging the communities, importance to cultural dimension and indigenous knowledge, vocational training, importance on mother languages, multilingual languages for education etc.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session among the resource person and the participants. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Prasanta Kumar Behera, Associate Professor, Dept. of Economics, CUO. The programme was attended by faculty members, students, and research scholars from different departments. The session was anchored by Miss Debjaneer Mohanta, PG Student of the Dept. of Economics.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer