

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS  
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**Tribe and Tribal Development: Challenges, Approaches, and Contemporary Discourse**

The Department of Sociology, Central University of Odisha (CUO), successfully organized a special lecture on "Tribe and Tribal Development: Challenges, Approaches, and Contemporary Discourse" 12 March 2025 in its campus. Held under the guidance of Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of CUO, Koraput. Prof. Tripathi extended all the support and best wishes to students, staff and Faculty Members of the Department. The event aimed to bring forth discussions on the pressing challenges faced by tribal communities and the pathways for their sustainable development. The Special Lecture was delivered by Prof. Saubhagya Ranjan Padhi, Head of the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh.

Prof. Padhi, in his address, elaborated on the conceptual ambiguities surrounding the term "tribe." He highlighted how the classification of tribal communities has long been influenced by colonial narratives and administrative categorizations, often failing to capture their diverse social structures and cultural uniqueness. He further emphasized that development programs for tribal communities should not be externally imposed but rather shaped by the perspectives and needs of the communities themselves.

The event reaffirmed CUO's commitment to advancing tribal research, policy advocacy, and community engagement. By hosting such discussions, the university continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the discourse on tribal development, ensuring that indigenous knowledge and identities remain an integral part of India's developmental journey.

Dr. Saubhagya Laxmi Singh, Assistant Professor, Central University of Odisha Coordinator of the Special Lecture has introduced the guest. Dr. Kapila Khemundu, HoD, Department of Sociology, in his introductory remarks emphasized the need of the Tribal development at this current juncture. Tribal as a marginalized group cannot be kept isolated and neglected with reference to its aspiration to become a Biswa Guru with a spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat and a determination to be a developed country or Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The event concluded with the summarization of the lecture by Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sahu and a vote of thanks by Miss Ishita. All the faculties, Dr. Deepthi Shankaer, Dr. Aditya Keshari Mishra, Dr. Nupur Pattanaik, Dr. Elisha Mohanty, and Dr. Manash Ranjan Mallick, of the Department of Sociology, and Dr. Ravita Pathak, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, were actively participated along with the students.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer