



Message from Chair

India, from the foothills of Himalayas to the islands of Lakshadweep and from the plains of Gujarat to the hills of North-East, is the land of indigenous tribes. The word 'tribe' itself is derived from the Latin 'tribus' and Romans used it to classify the division of society. Academicians define it as a social group, usually within a definite area, dialect, cultural homogeneity and unifying social organisation tied by strong kinship bonds.

Tribes represent the element in Indian society which is integrated with the cultural diversity of our civilisation. According to the Census of 2011, there are 8.6 percent Scheduled Tribes in India. The names of tribes like the Bodo and the Ahom in North-East India; the Asura, the Saora, the Oraon, the Gond, the Santhal, the Bil in Central India; the Irula, the Pagna in South India; and, the Gujjars in North-West India ---- are found in classical Indian literature. Gone are the days when the position of tribes in India was like a wretched boat, tossed here and there. Now they are under the impact of mobility and change. A great transformation and resurgence is taking place throughout the country.

The Chair for Tribal Studies in the Central University of Himachal Pradesh was established in 2014 for extensive study and research on tribes of India. I have the honour of joining it as the first Chair-PROFESSOR in 2017. Besides various research projects and extensive studies, we intend to start the certificate courses in history, culture, language and literature of various tribes from the current academic session in collaboration with various faculties and educational societies.

- [*Broad Outline List of PhD Research Topics in Tribal Studies*](#)

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