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WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

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# World Anthropology Congress

9-14 AUGUST 2023



Hosted by: Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar, India

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## Plenary Session

# Celebrating Human Diversity for Sustainable Peace and Justice: Insights from Professor Partha P. Majumder

In a thought-provoking plenary lecture aimed at promoting the ideals of "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions," Professor Partha P. Majumder, a renowned figure in the field of genetics and scientific research, emphasized the significance of celebrating human diversity as a pivotal step towards achieving these sustainable goals. The distinguished speaker addressed an attentive audience, including scholars, researchers, and academicians, at the World Anthropology Congress 2023 hosted by Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), on 10th August 2023.

Professor Majumder's extensive credentials include being the Founder of the National Institute of Biomedical

Genomics, a holder of esteemed titles such as National Science Chair and Distinguished Professor, and affiliations with esteemed institutions like the Indian Statistical Institute and Indian Institute of Science Education & Research. Opening his lecture, Professor Majumder underscored the core premise of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #16. He highlighted how the disregard for human differences, whether they be differences in physical appearance, language, culture, gender, or values, has historically been at the root of conflicts and a catalyst for the erosion of peace. Furthermore, he posited that the dismissal of these differences fosters injustice, as it often perpetuates a sense of superiority and entitlement.

Professor Majumder drew attention to the need for a paradigm shift in perspective. He challenged the audience to recognize that our shared humanity unites us even amid our diversity. By celebrating and embracing our differences, we move closer to the heart of SDG-16's aspirations.

Delving into the scientific realm, Professor Majumder introduced the audience to the intricate tapestry of genetic heritage that weaves through India's population groups. He painted a vivid narrative of ancestries and genetic diversity that showcased the rich mosaic of backgrounds that shape the nation.

In his compelling discourse, the

distinguished speaker outlined the reasons why this diversity should be celebrated rather than shunned. He stressed that genetic variety not only enriches the cultural fabric of societies but also holds vital clues for scientific advancements. Genetic diversity, he argued, has been a crucial factor in human survival and adaptation, and its continued presence ensures our species' resilience in the face of evolving challenges.

Professor Majumder's lecture resonated deeply with the audience, sparking engaged discussions and a palpable sense of introspection. Attendees left the event with a renewed commitment to valuing human diversity and promoting peace, justice, and robust institutions.

## Four Books Unveiled at Special Book Release Session

On the second day of the World Anthropology Congress 2023, Professor Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice Chancellor, KISS-DU; Professor A.B. Ota, Advisor, UNICEF; Professor P.C. Joshi, Chairman, WAC-NAAC and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi and other dignitaries released four books at a special scheduled session. The books are: 'Indigenous Children and Inclusive Formal Education' by Prof. Itishree Padhi & Dr. Rashmi Pramanik; 'Shaping the destiny of Odisha: The undying legacy of Madhusudan Das' by Prof. Jugal Kishore Mishra; 'Ramayan Soul of Indian Civilisation' by Ramchandra Mutatkar and 'Elderly Persons in Tribal Societies' by Amrita Bagga.



Professor S. Gregory, Member Secretary, UIAF; Professor A.B. Ota, Advisor, UNICEF; Prof. M. Gangadhar, University of Mysore; Professor R.K. Mutatkar, Patron, UIAF; Professor Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice Chancellor, KISS-DU; Professor P.C. Joshi, Chairman, WAC-NAAC and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi; Prof. Atanu Kumar Pati, Former Vice Chancellor, Gangadhar Meher University; Prof. Siba Prasad Adhikary, Former VC, Fakir Mohan University and other dignitaries releasing a book.

# Special Session on Visual Anthropology: Importance, Relevance & Recent Development

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya organized a special session on 'Visual Anthropology : Importance, Relevance and Recent Development' at the World Anthropology Congress 2023 on 9th August 2023. Commencing the deliberation, Dr. Bhuvan Vikram, Director, IGRMS and Dr. Surya Kumar Pandey, Assistant Curator introduced the theme and its importance. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. K. K. Basa, Chairman, National

Monument Authority and Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi. Prof. Basa gave an insight into the discipline Visual Anthropology and its different facets by citing examples.

During the session, a catalogue titled "75 Masterpieces from IGRMS Collection", published by IGRMS, was released. To celebrate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahostav' and commemorate the 75th year of Indian Independence,

IGRMS brought forth first 75 objects from the series 'Object of the Week' in the form of a catalogue. Dr. Ashok Sharma, Assistant Keeper proposed the vote of thanks. Compering of the session was done by Dr. P. Anuradha, Museum Associate. Following the inaugural session, two ethnographic films were screened - 'Lingo Jatra' by Dr. Ashok Kumar Sharma and 'Halma: It's Time for Call' by Shri Abhay Mishra, IGNC, New Delhi. A discussion session was held after the

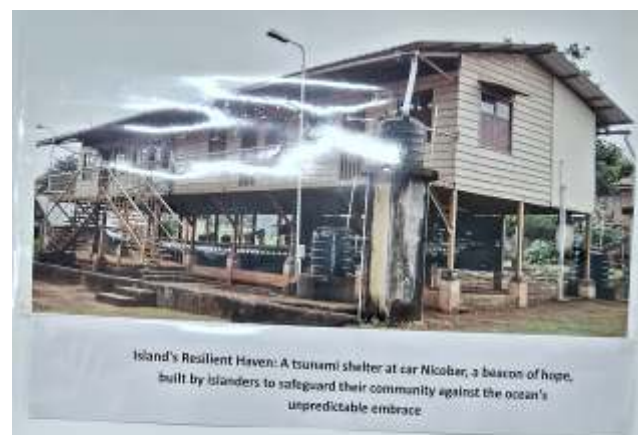
screening.

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. It is visualised as a Centre encompassing the study and experience of all the arts, each form with its own integrity, yet within the dimension of mutual interdependence, to study, preserve, conserve and disseminate the knowledge of rich cultural heritage, culture and art of India.

## Abhivyakti: Expression of Thoughts through Visuals

The photographic exhibition titled 'Abhivyakti: Expression of Thoughts through Visuals' is a part of Special Session on Visual Anthropology. The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. K. K. Basa, Chairman, National Monument Authority and Director General, ASI, New Delhi. It opens up a new understanding of media technology in social and artistic context by expressing diversified ethnic groups through visuals or images. The photographs displayed in the exhibition elucidate the socio-cultural aspects of different ethnic groups.

This exhibition, mounted in three spacious halls, comprises of invited photographs clicked by different scholars on various themes like 'Bengal Riverine Present: A Pictorial Narrative' by Mr. Swarup Bhattacharyya, 'Unveiling Nicobar's Legacy: An Exhibition on the Nicobarese Island Culture' by Dr. Piyusa Ranjan Sahoo, 'Tamang Indigeneity- Ethno Heritage Train in Darjeeling, West Bengal' by Ms. Lipika Nath, 'Kohabar Painting' by Dr. Sapam Ranabir Singh and 'Photo-ethnography as a Tool to Understand Neoliberal Aspirations and Their Construction by Schooling' by Shri Shankar Guguloth.



# Technical Sessions

10th August 2023



## KISS Celebrates

## International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples



On the sidelines of WAC-2023, KISS commemorated the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in the presence of its 30,000 tribal students on August 9th, 2023. The celebration was graced by distinguished guests and scholars who had gathered for the World Anthropology Congress 2023.

# Cultural Program



The delegates were captivated by a vibrant and captivating cultural program showcased by students from KISS on 9th August 2023. The presentations included a Santal dance, a Kisan dance, a dance performed to a Kuvi song, and a traditional Chait Parab dance. These performances offered a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of diverse tribal communities.



## About **KIIT** Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology



Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), a household name in the education sector, has become a sought-after destination in India for professional studies. It is admired all over for the quality of its academic courses, its community outreach work and as a university of compassion and humanitarianism. It has become a case study because no other educational institution in India has grown in its scope and scale as much as KIIT has in a short span of 25 years. Its incredible transformation is truly a journey from Soil to Silver.

KIIT started in 1992-93 as an Industrial Training Institution. However, 1997 is considered the base year for the University as undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Engineering, Management and Computer Applications were added. In 2007, many new schools were added to its umbrella - School of Law, Biotechnology, Medical Sciences, Dental Sciences, Nursing, Mass Communication, Film and Media, Fashion and KIIT International School. Since then, there has been no looking back! Today, KIIT offers professional education to around 40,000 students from across India. This includes 2000 international students from 65 countries. The alumni of KIIT, over a lakh of them, have made their mark in their respective careers in academics, corporate organisations, civil services and enterprise.

One would find it difficult to imagine that such a celebrated institution with a global reputation was established by an unassuming humble being, Dr Achyuta Samanta, the Founder of KIIT and KISS, who started the institute with all of Rs 5000 as the initial investment. He had big



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dreams and a passion to make a difference. Dr Samanta started KIIT in two rented rooms with 12 students and 2 staff. The modest institution has now grown to incomprehensible proportions and is spread over a vast 25-square-kilometre academic township. Its 25 lush green campuses employ over 2500 eminent faculty and researchers and 15000 staff. KIIT and KISS together is a family of over a lakh people. The campus houses a 2600-bedded super speciality hospital, KIMS, a multi-storey central library, a central research facility, a 22-storey research and innovation wing, auditoriums - the largest one with 5000 seating capacity, 16 sports complexes, many international standard stadiums covering all sports, 30 food courts, and a rose garden. The institution takes pride in being the greenest campus in India.

It has received all accreditations and affiliations from prestigious national and international bodies such as the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), USA and the Institution of Engineering and Technology, (IET), UK because of its quality research, innovation, and publications and citations. KIIT has had an excellent placement record since its inception owing to its quality teaching and learning process, and the brand value that it carries. KIIT is ranked in the cohort of 601-800 in the Times Higher Education 'World University Ranking'. Its Computer Science Engineering ranks in the cohort of 301-400 and its overall Engineering ranking is 401-500 in the world. KIIT has been accredited with an A++ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with an all-India 16th rank by the National

Institution of Ranking Framework, NIRF, Ministry of Education.

KIIT has made colossal contributions to Sports. Currently, 11 Olympians pursue their education at KIIT. Besides its immense contribution to the development of the state and the city, KIIT has also promoted local art, culture, sculpture, rural development, literature and spiritualism. All the achievements of KIIT have been possible because of its founder - Dr Achyuta Samanta - lovingly called Samanta Sir - the epitome of principles, discipline, hard work, and selfless service. It truly is an inspiring story of a humble man steering two institutions to glory despite all the hardships and struggles.