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Plenary Session



Redefining Museum Anthropology: Professor Amarendra Galla Addresses the Poverty Within

In a thought-provoking lecture that laid bare the complexities and shortcomings of museum anthropology, Professor Amarendra Galla, a distinguished academic, and leader in cultural heritage and inclusivity, brought to light the challenges faced by museums in India. Speaking at the Plenary Session on 12th August 2023 at the World Anthropology Congress 2023 that drew scholars, experts, and enthusiasts alike, Professor Galla initiated a candid dialogue about the state of museum anthropology and its potential transformation.

Holding key positions including heading the UNESCO Chair on Inclusive Museums & Sustainable Heritage Development and serving as Professor of Inclusive Cultural Leadership, Professor Galla's expertise and insights carry considerable weight in

the academic world. As the Founding Director of the International Centre for Inclusive Cultural Leadership at AnantU, Ahmedabad, and an Emeritus Faculty at ANU, Canberra, his unique perspective bridges cultures and experiences.

Professor Galla set the stage by scrutinizing the history of museum anthropology in India, highlighting the pervasive influence of colonial legacies. He questioned the general assumption by asking, "What is National about the National Museums, and what is Indian about the Indian Museums?"

Drawing attention to the uneven landscape of museums in India, Professor Galla lamented the limited attention given to university museums, even from the upper echelons of their leadership. The

National Educational Policy, despite its potential, remains underutilized by the University Grants Commission, emphasizing the need for substantive change. While a burgeoning number of private museums has emerged, he noted a prevailing tendency to focus primarily on art from a Western-centric aesthetic, which highlights the pervasive influence of Western paradigms.

In his critique, Professor Galla illuminated the few exceptions that exist within the Indian museological realm, citing Vietnam's impressive strides in pioneering postcolonial museum anthropology that have garnered global acclaim. He questioned whether India, after 75 years of independence, is overdue for a psychological decolonization to recalibrate its museums' narratives.

Central to his discourse was the critical focus on 'What museums India?' Professor Galla's presentation sought to reorient the trajectory of museum anthropology in the country. By challenging the prevailing models that perpetuate Western ideals and recognition, he called for a reimagining of museums that is rooted in India's rich cultural heritage.

With his powerful insights and unflinching critique, he not only spotlighted the issues plaguing Indian museums but also paved the way for a brighter, more inclusive future—one that envisions museums as dynamic spaces that honor the nation's past while shaping its progressive narrative.



WAC 2023:

Hands-on training on tribal art, craft pulls crowd at KISS



The ongoing World Anthropology Congress (WAC) at KISS Deemed to be University has become a meeting point of ideas on tribal art, crafts and culture with hands-on training sessions for the interested participants, visitors and students.

The art and craft centre of KISS at the WAC venue is teaching the visitors how to learn Saura tribal art on silk with four primary colours. The same craft developed by students of KISS is also used by the KIIT and KISS while felicitating guests who visit the twin campuses from around the world. The Saura art has also got a distinct presence across the city walls during international sporting events in recent times.

Subrat Mahala, who heads the training centre said, "Apart from the Saura tribal art we are also teaching the craft of terracotta making, coir craft and making of appliqué work here and the visitors to our unit are learning the crafts with profound interest as they are distinct, colourful and organic as we are using only natural materials and colours."

Integrated Tribal Development Agency of Kapitipada-Udala in Mayurbhanj district is showcasing tribal craft by using "sabai grass" and date palm leaves. Visitors are also taking interest in learning the skill to know the "sabai grass" craft and items made from date palm leaves.



Cultural Program: Performed by Professional Artistes



Technical Sessions

12th August 2023



KIIT KISS Sports



Believing in the maxim of 'invest in youth and sports to invest in future' since 1997, particularly after 2005, KIIT & KISS have been promoting sports, nurturing sportspersons and creating sports infrastructure that has become a model for other universities in India to emulate. Very early on, during the formative days of KIIT & KISS, Dr Samanta realised the importance of investment in sports, much like the universities in western countries. KIIT and KISS have successfully built the best sports infrastructure of international standards - all ideated, implemented and monitored by Dr Samanta, who did not have the luxury of playing any game or sports. His institutions encourage students to practice any sport in their leisure for recreation, wellness, fitness and mental strength besides nurturing sportspersons by providing the right atmosphere to train and compete at the highest level. Dr Samanta has always encouraged participation in sports by providing scholarships, patronage and sponsorship.

KIIT has a huge athletics stadium, a cricket stadium, archery ground, Rugby ground, Velodrome, and a hockey/

football stadium with a huge seating capacity. Besides these, there are 18 sports complexes that have one Olympic size swimming pool, 15 practice pools, and 15 high-performance gyms. Various Ministers of Youth Affairs and Sports, including Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Shri Kiren Rijiju and Shri Anurag Thakur have hailed the sporting facilities at KIIT & KISS, besides sporting legends like Gopichand, PT Usha and Leander Paes. Historically, the facilities have been named after legends in the respective domains. The facilities and infrastructure for all events of the Olympics are available at the university. Sports of National and some International levels are regularly held at KIIT & KISS, as all facilities are available in one place. Comfortable luxury accommodations and an attached 2600 bedded multi-speciality hospital is available on campus, which makes it conducive for hosting multi-disciplinary events such as the 1st Khelo India University Games 2020 (17 disciplines), the 25th All India Forest Sports Meet 2020 (23 disciplines) among several others.

Over 300 sports personnel under different heads work under the

Department of Sports, KIIT & KISS. It is an empowered and decentralised wing that works towards all endeavours related to sports, conducting events, management of the facilities, training of students and specialised practice for the athletes and sportspersons. KISS, on the other hand, has produced 5000+ tribal athletes, of which 200+ have participated and bagged medals at the international level, while the others have participated at the school, college, state and national levels. Investment in sports at KISS has paid dividends by ushering in gender equality. Sports and academics have always gone hand in hand at KISS. In fact, Dr Samanta says, 'Play while you Learn and Learn while you Play'. If Odisha is the hub of sports talent in India, KIIT & KISS is at the core of the convergence of sporting prowess.

Dr Samanta has promoted many sports, especially Rugby and Chess from scratch in Odisha and has placed KIIT & KISS, Odisha and India on the world map with regard to the conduct of those sports. KISS is the only institution in India to integrate Chess into its academic curriculum. It is also an associate sponsor of Rugby India. Both KIIT & KISS

have also aimed at making Sports more inclusive by establishing 10 sports academies for talented sportspersons in and around Odisha. The institutions have also introduced sports in rural areas such as Volleyball in Kandhamal, Phulbani & Boudh and Chess in Kalarabanka.

Through his institutions he has nurtured 12 Olympians who are pursuing their education at KIIT and KISS. Without basking in the glory of the past, Dr Samanta and his team are constantly and dedicatedly working to send 10 students to the 2024 Olympics. Now, the world recognises the silent contribution of Odisha in sports, and similarly, KIIT and KISS as universities will soon be known as the hunting ground for talent. The vision of Dr Samanta is to provide quality sporting facilities at schools & colleges so that future stars receive proper training from an early age. If all universities follow the model of KIIT & KISS of backing their sportspersons, we can double down on the progress we are already making in sports.

Unique Recognition

- KIIT and KISS are the nodal centres for the FIFA Football For Schools Programme and FIVB Volleyball for All Programme in South Asia. It is first of its kind in the world for FIFA and FIVB
- For its contribution to Sports and Encouraging Sports personnel, KIIT has received Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2022 by Government of India
- The University has been conferred the Sportstar Award, FICCI India Sports and Biju Patnaik Award for the promotion of sports
- KIIT is the only education institution in India to be granted institutional membership by All India Chess Federation (AICF)
- KIIT and KISS hosted the first ever Janjatiya Khel Mohatsav 2023

Our Olympics Jewels



Dutee Chand
Athletics



CA Bhavani Devi
Fencing



Shivpal Singh
Javelin Throw



Priyanka
Athletics



Amit Rohidas
Hockey



Srabani Nanda
Athletics



Lilima Minz
Hockey



Sunita Lakra
Hockey



Sajan Prakash
Swimming



Praveen Kumar
Para Athletics



Kashish Lakra
Para Athletics