



SCHOOL OF ENGLISH
GANGADHAR MEHER UNIVERSITY, SAMBALPUR

National Seminar
on
“Folk Culture of Western Odisha: An Exploration”
(Hybrid Mode)

Date: December 05–06, 2025

Venue: Conference Hall, Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur, Odisha

Organized by: School of English, Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur, Odisha

About the Seminar

The National Seminar on “*Folk Culture of Western Odisha: An Exploration*” seeks to bring into academic focus the rich and diverse folk traditions of Western Odisha, which serve as living repositories of the region’s cultural identity. These traditions—embodied in music, dance, oral narratives, ritual practices, and indigenous instruments—offer deep insights into the socio-cultural, spiritual, and historical fabric of the region. However, despite their significance, many of these expressions remain under-documented and under-theorized in mainstream academic discourse.

This seminar aims to create a platform for critical engagement, documentation, and dissemination of the folk expressions of Western Odisha. It will bring together scholars, researchers, cultural practitioners, and students from across the country to examine the aesthetic, anthropological, and performative dimensions of these traditions. By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue between folklore studies, literature, history, musicology, and performance studies, the seminar seeks to promote cultural preservation, generate new research, and encourage deeper academic and public appreciation of Western Odisha’s intangible cultural heritage.

Sub-Themes

- Folk Musical Instruments of Western Odisha
- Sambalpuri Dance and Its Evolution
- Tribal and Non-Tribal Interactions in Folk Arts
- Oral Narratives and Song Traditions
- Gender and Performance in Folk Culture
- Religious, Ritualistic, and Festival Performances
- Folk Culture and Identity in Modern Times
- Transmission, Preservation & Media Representation

Target Participants


- Academicians and Teachers
- Research Scholars and Students
- Folklorists and Cultural Anthropologists
- Artists, Performers, and Cultural Archivists
- Independent Researchers and Educators
- Stakeholders in Heritage Preservation and Promotion

Call for Papers

Original and unpublished research papers, case studies, and documentation-based presentations are invited on the seminar themes and sub-themes. Contributions should reflect scholarly engagement, theoretical grounding, and relevance to the region's folk culture.

All submitted papers will undergo a blind peer review process. Accepted papers will be eligible for presentation during the seminar and consideration for publication in an ISBN-marked edited volume.

Guidelines for Paper Submission

1. Contribution/content must be original and unpublished, and should include the author's full postal address, email ID, and contact number.
2. The full paper should be 5000–6000 words, including tables, figures, and bibliography, with an abstract limited to 300 words.
3. Format: MS Word document, 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman, font size 12, on A4 sheet.
4. Email submissions in **word file** to:  atripathy@gmuniversity.ac.in,
anjalitripathy@yahoo.co.in.

Important Dates

- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** July 30, 2025
- **Abstract Acceptance Notification:** August 15, 2025
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline:** October 15, 2025

For Further Details Contact:

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