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**CTD: 19PD- PEACE, DEVELOPMENT, AND HUMAN SECURITY
SUB-DOMAIN: DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL AND MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES**

PANEL TITLE: HIGHER EDUCATION AMONG TRIBAL COMMUNITIES OF ODISHA AND GER TARGETS

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DISCUSSANT: PROF KAMAL K MISHRA**

ABSTRACT

Higher education, in the wake of well-articulated, broad, and forward-looking policy initiatives, has simultaneously become space for several national and aspirational goals. When timelines are set for some of these goals, they not only ask for fast-tracking the policies and ways and means for achieving and actualizing them, but also ask for relatively higher level of effort and participation from the marginalized communities. For example, the target of 50 percent gross enrolment rate (GER) by 2035. What does it mean in terms of efforts for the learners from tribal communities whose percentage in GER is far less than their percentage in the population of the nation? Will they be able to catch up or going to be left further behind? How does it enhance inclusiveness which, along with access and equity, is a stated goal of higher education?

The panel would like to deliberate the implications of this target and related issues about the learners from the tribal communities of Odisha.

Keywords: Tribal Communities, Higher education, GER, Policy, Inclusiveness

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