



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

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# WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

BHUBANESWAR, INDIA | 9-14 AUGUST 2023

CTD: 23HM- TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS

SUB-DOMAIN: ANTHROPOLOGY OF MUSEUM, TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

## PANEL TITLE:

## RELEVANCE OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL MUSEUM AND PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

CONVENOR: NILANJAN KHATUA

CO-CONVENOR: SURYA KUMAR PANDEY

### ABSTRACT

Human cultural civilizations across the globe are celebrated for the variety of their cultural traditions and their adaptability to the diverse ecosystems of their respective nations and continents. One should pay a visit to anthropological museums located in various parts of many countries to "experience" rather than simply "understand" cultural diversity and its zillion expressions manifested through various facets of its creativity. Indian cultural diversity is endowed with rich tradition of its art and craft, music and dance forms and originality of technology to adapt to local ecological traditions. Anthropological museums primarily give the public a space to reflect on the rich cultural history of indigenous or tribal populations. Although the material and intangible collections kept in the museum may provide limited gaze to primordial origins of an ethnic group, but they do provide deep insights into their aesthetics, economic aspirations, religious convictions, indigenous knowledge system, eating habits, costumes, level of ecological adaptability, and several other aspects. Heritage is what we hold onto now, it is handed down to us with a mandate to preserve it for future generations. We are able to witness it primarily because of our ancestors' efforts. Beliefs, social norms, rites, and rituals, performing arts (dance, theatre, puppet shows), songs and music, folk stories, folk narratives, and other non-tangible elements make up intangible heritage. All tangible heritage includes things like houses and household items, musical instruments, clothes and ornaments, art, and craft objects, and so on. The museum ensures the preservation of the traditional cultural heritage of different tribal/indigenous groups and folk communities by holding demonstrations and training programs for various arts and crafts, for collecting, and documenting different communities' material cultures, creating audio-video documentation, hosting workshops for artist camps, and studying folklore and tribal accounts. Educating the public about the priceless cultural heritage of humanity is a fundamental responsibility of anthropological museums.

**Keywords:** Tribal Culture, Preservation, Tangible and Intangible heritage, Anthropological Museum

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