



WORLD  
ANTHROPOLOGY  
CONGRESS

Organized by



Hosted by



In Association with



# WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

BHUBANESWAR, INDIA | 9-14 AUGUST 2023

CRD2 SOCIAL CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ROUND TABLE TITLE:

## PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND PROMOTION OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

CHAIR & MODERATOR: PROF A.B. OTA & PROF. A. K. MISHRA

CONVENOR: DR. SUSHREE SANGITA MOHANTY

### ABSTRACT

Diversity is the essence of humanity and empirical research have revealed that most of the world's heterogeneous knowledge is stored in indigenous languages. As we enter the "International Decade for Indigenous Languages" beginning in 2022, an alarming number of languages, mostly Indigenous languages, are under threat worldwide (UNESCO- 2022). We all understand that language in general and indigenous language, in particular, plays a crucial role in our society. The Indigenous languages which are seldom studied & researched have the potential to be used as a medium to contribute immensely that can act as a repository of traditional knowledge, memories, values, and practices that can be helpful in transforming society a lot. A study published in December 2021 by the Australian National University (ANU) raises the alarm on the future of linguistic diversity. It says out of the world's 7,000 recognized languages of which 6000 are Indigenous languages and around 3000 of these indigenous languages are currently endangered, 1,500 are on the verge of extinction. When an Indigenous language is lost, not only does the knowledge accumulated by the community of its speakers fade away but also the world's cultural and biological diversity is impacted adversely. Hence protection and conservation of indigenous languages are crucial for a sustainable future. Realizing this, a closed panel on the theme "Protection, Conservation, and Promotion of Indigenous Languages" has been proposed under the CRD 12 where Domain experts of National repute who have worked extensively on the subject will deliberate, interact from their long-standing experience and will come up with a road map as to what needs to be done, particularly in India to protect, conserve and promote Indigenous languages which will be extremely helpful to ensure a definite identity to the tribal communities.

**Keywords:** Indigenous Languages, Language protection, conservation & promotion

Pre- and Post-Congress In Collaboration with

