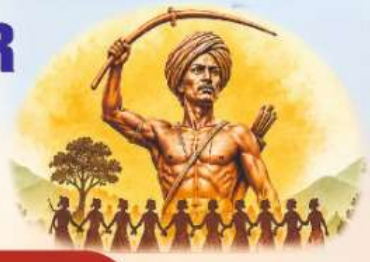
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION SCIENCES

(Deemed to be University)
Deonar, Mumbai-88



JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS 2026

Commemoration of **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**, marking the birth anniversary of **Birsa Munda**, the great tribal freedom fighter

Date: 23rd November 2026 | Time: 11:00 AM | Venue: 3rd Floor Library Building

Invited Lectures



Dr. Joram Aniya

Member, NITI Aayog

Bio

Dr. Joram Aniya is a distinguished academician, researcher, folklorist and author with nearly two decades of experience in higher education, research and academic administration.

Dr. Aniya holds a Ph.D. in Hindi from Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University), an M.A. in Hindi from North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, and a Bachelor's degree in History from the University of Delhi.

Prior to joining NITI Aayog, she served in the Department of Higher Education, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, holding several key academic and administrative positions, including the prestigious Hon'ble Member of the Arunachal Pradesh Private Educational Regulatory Commission (APPERC).

A renowned scholar of indigenous knowledge systems, Dr. Aniya has made significant contributions to the study, preservation and documentation of the language, folklore and cultural heritage of the Nyishi community in particular and other indigenous societies of Arunachal Pradesh. Her academic interests span Hindi language and Literature, Tribal Studies, History, Culture, Sociology and Indigenous Knowledge Systems. She has authored books on Folk Literature and published numerous research papers and articles in reputed national and international academic journals.

Dr. Aniya has actively participated in national and international seminars, conferences and literary forums. She is also widely recognised as an accomplished public speaker and ardent advocate for the promotion of Indian languages and indigenous cultures.

She has served on several prestigious academic, linguistic, and advisory bodies at the national and international levels, including as a member of the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru; the Executive Councils of North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) and Assam University, Silchar; the Academic Advisory Council of Mizoram University as a UGC Nominee; the Hindi Advisory Committees of the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs,etc. reflecting her significant contributions to higher education, language promotion, and public policy.

Dr. Aniya is widely recognised as a pioneer in higher education and Hindi scholarship in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. She is the first scholar from Arunachal Pradesh to earn a Ph.D. in Hindi, marking a significant milestone in the academic history of the State.

Dr. Aniya has received numerous national and international honours for her contributions to education, literature, and cultural preservation. Among the most distinguished is the Vishwa Hindi Samman, conferred at the 11th World Hindi Conference in Mauritius (2018), recognizing her outstanding contribution to the promotion of Hindi globally. She has also been honoured with the Academy Samman by the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and several prestigious literary and academic awards.

As Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. Joram Aniya contributes to national policy formulation with particular interest in education, language, indigenous knowledge systems, tourism & culture, human resource development and inclusive growth.



Mr. Harsh Chouhan

Former Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

Bio

Shri Harsh Chouhan, Former Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), is a distinguished social worker, tribal rights advocate and grassroots development practitioner with over three decades of experience in community mobilisation, tribal welfare and rural development.

Shri Chouhan holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Shri Govindram Seksaria Institute of Technology and Science (SGSITS), Indore (1985), a Master's degree in Systems and Management from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, and a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Since 1988, he has been actively engaged in social work, dedicating his efforts to the empowerment and development of tribal communities. He began his social work journey with the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, where he subsequently served in various organisational capacities, including State Secretary and State President in Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Chouhan is one of the founding members of **Shivganga Samagra Gramvikas Parishad**, established in Jhabua in 1998. Through this initiative, he has been closely associated with community-led development among the Bhil tribal communities, particularly in water conservation, environmental regeneration, livelihood generation, vocational training and community empowerment. His approach emphasises people's participation, collective responsibility and the integration of indigenous knowledge and traditional community practices into sustainable development.

In February 2021, he was appointed Chairperson of the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** by the President of India, serving in this position until June 2023. During his tenure, he was involved in addressing issues concerning the constitutional safeguards, rights and welfare of Scheduled Tribes, including forest rights, tribal livelihoods and the protection of community interests.

Shri Chouhan's work spans grassroots mobilisation, tribal institution-building and engagement with public institutions, with a continued focus on community participation, self-reliance, dignity and inclusive development.

Prof. Sanjay Kumar Mohanty
Director & sr. Professor

Prof. Nandita Saikia & Dr. Reshmi R. S.
Coordinator, Publication Cell & STTP