IIPS celebrate Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas by Organising Invited Lecture by Dr. Joram Aniya and Shri Harsha Chauhan

On 23rd November 2026, the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, organized a special program of invited lectures on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2026 at the 3rd Floor of the Library Building. The event featured distinguished speakers Dr. Joram Aniya, Member of NITI Aayog, and Shri Harsh Chouhan, Former Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).

The program commenced with an introductory note by the anchor, followed by the traditional lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries, namely Prof. Sanjay K. Mohanty, Dr. Joram Aniya, Shri Harsh Chouhan, and Prof. Nandita Saikia. Prof. Sanjay K. Mohanty, Director of IIPS, delivered the Welcome Address to the gathering. Thereafter, Prof. Nandita Saikia formally introduced the guest speakers to the audience. As a gesture of respect and appreciation, the guests were felicitated.

Following the felicitation, an insightful documentary of 30 min highlighting the pivotal contributions of eminent tribal leaders to India's freedom struggle was screened for the attendees. Through compelling visual storytelling, the film brought to life the heroic legacies and sacrifices of prominent freedom fighters such as Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu, Thalakkal Chanthu of Wayanad, Birsa Munda, and several other unsung tribal personalities who fiercely resisted colonial rule.

The academic proceedings then moved into the invited lecture sessions. Dr. Joram Aniya delivered the first lecture, sharing valuable insights into the importance of research in policy formulation and the pivotal role researchers can play in the development of tribal communities. She highlighted the contributions of tribal freedom fighters from North-East India, specifically detailing the colonial tactics used by the British to segregate tribal groups and disrespect their customs. She emphasized that tribal communities never fought for power; rather, their struggles were always rooted in protecting their motherland and way of life. Addressing the students and scholars in the gathering, she urged them to understand the true essence of tribal customs and their broader implications, while also outlining key domains researchers should focus on for holistic tribal development. Finally, she concluded her address by reflecting on the distinct yet impactful forms of resistance led by Birsa Munda and Swami Vivekananda against British colonial rule.

This was followed by the second invited lecture delivered by Shri Harsh Chouhan, Former Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. He underscored the critical importance of demography and statistics in driving evidence-based tribal development, while addressing the widespread misconceptions that persist in mainstream literature regarding Indian tribes. Diving into the historical injustices faced by tribal communities, he traced the institutional journey that eventually led to the establishment of a dedicated Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Shri Chouhan elaborated extensively on colonial legislation, particularly the Forest Acts, explaining how these laws were systematically designed by the British to discriminate against, dispossess, and exploit indigenous populations. Concluding his address, he highlighted the pivotal role that an institution like IIPS can play in advancing tribal welfare, specifically emphasizing the urgent need to develop distinct, culturally sensitive research methodologies tailored to the unique realities of tribal societies.

After the lectures, the floor was opened for an interactive Question and Answer and discussion session involving the audience along with Prof. Sanjay K. Mohanty, Dr. Joram Aniya, and Shri Harsh Chouhan. The event concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, organizers, and participants for making the observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2026 meaningful and successful.









