



One-Day National Seminar

on

**ODISHA THROUGH THE AGES:
RECONSTRUCTING SOCIO-
CULTURAL HISTORY**

DATE: 07TH MARCH, 2026

Organized by

P.G. DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S COLLEGE,
BALANGIR, ODISHA**

(Affiliated to Rajendra University, Balangir, Odisha)

About the Seminar:

Odisha has a long and linear history. The continuation of history from prehistoric period to post-modern period is of immense importance from socio-cultural point of view. Generally people believe history as an account of political narrative and paid less attention to other historical aspects such as religion, society, economy, culture and so on. As a result of which such fields remain unexplored or less discussed from historical perspective. A state or a region not only got its identity from its political history, rather its rich cultural heritage, traditions and customs gives a special identity. Therefore reconstructing the socio-cultural history of Odisha is essential to move beyond a political narrative to understand the evolution of its unique cultural identity.

Another important issue with the history of Odisha in academics (particularly in prescribed history syllabus) is that, the early historiography of Odisha focused on coastal areas and considered rest of Odisha as periphery. Before 1936, the state was fragmented into different division like Koshala, Odra, Utkala, Kongoda etc. in ancient and early medieval period and under Bengal, Madras and Central Province in colonial period which was probably a great constraint in the socio-cultural prosperity of the state. Further various tribes and groups of people live in the state with their specific language and cultural tradition since time immemorial. The Socio-Cultural Amalgamation, Acculturation, Sanskritisation, Westernisation etc. that took place over the time greatly affected the life and living of the people of Odisha. There is a need to look into detail, the various aspects of life, culture and tradition in that context.

New research needs to shift towards a more inclusive approach that highlights the specific and varied cultural development in different regions of the state. Reconstruction of history requires using modern scientific techniques and approaches such as in-depth studies of existing epigraphic, numismatic, literary sources, oral tradition and other relevant sources. This endeavour (seminar) is driven by the need to fill the historical gaps to write and rewrite the socio-cultural history of Odisha with a new perspective and using new archaeological and literary evidence.

Objective of the Seminar:

- To rewrite the socio-cultural history of Odisha with more inclusive approach.
- To fill the missing gap in the socio- cultural studies.
- To promote micro research and case study on regional history.
- To document the tangible and intangible heritage of Odisha.
- To explore and utilise new archaeological, literary evidence and other sources of history.
- To create awareness among students and scholars about the region's rich historical legacy and its contribution to Indian civilisation

About The College:

Government Women's College, Balangir, established in 1962, is a pioneering institution for women's education in Odisha. Located in a scheduled and economically backward region of Western Odisha, the college offers 18 undergraduate and 3 postgraduate courses in Arts and Science. With the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 from the 2024-25 academic year, it aims to provide a multi-disciplinary academic and research framework. Committed to empowering women across all social categories, the college strives to impart quality education and help students establish their place in society.

About The Department:

The department of history is one of the oldest department of the Govt. Women's College Balangir since its establishment. Originally there were 16 honours seats and now there are 32 seats in honours. The department started offering post-graduation courses since 2022-23 academic sessions and with 32 seats in post-graduation. Presently the PG department of history offers both P.G and U.G. courses covering topics from Indian history, cultural and economic history, social and political history, world history and history of Odisha etc. from ancient to modern times. The department of history has highly qualified and research oriented faculty members who focus on critical understanding of historical events and to develop analytical skills among the students.

Sub-Theme:

- 1. Social history; Caste, Class, Gender**
- 2. Tribal Culture; Song Music, Dance**
- 3. Art, Architecture, Painting**
- 4. Literature and Philosophy**
- 5. Socio-Religious Movements**
- 6. Folk Culture and Tradition**
- 7. Indigenous Knowledge System**
- 8. Oral Tradition**
- 9. Fair and Festival**
- 10. Socio-Religious Hegemony**

The sub-themes listed are not exhaustive. We welcome submissions on other relevant topics that align with the broader theme of the conference.

Call for Research Paper:

We invite academicians, researchers, students, and professionals to submit original research papers on the main theme and sub-themes of the seminar for paper submission & presentation. Students of the regions, in particular are encouraged to participate in large number in this academic discussion.

Guidelines for Abstract and Full Paper Submission:

Authors are requested to submit abstracts of up to 250 words, formatted in Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1.5 line spacing and normal margins, in MS Word. Full papers should be in between 3,000 to 5,000 words and must follow the same formatting, with APA (7th Ed.) or MLA (9th Ed.) referencing. Kindly send your abstracts and full papers to the following email id: **parichhaarpirita@gmail.com**

Selected papers will be published in an Edited Book with ISBN number in a reputed national publisher. Depending on the Publisher, extra fees for publication may be charged on prior intimation.

Important Dates

Last Date for Abstract Submission	: 25 th February 2026
Last Date for Full Paper Submission	: 2 nd March 2026
Last Date for Registration	: 28 th February 2026

Registration Fee

	Students/Scholars	Faculty/Corporate
Only Participation	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 300/-
Presentation	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 400/-

Bank Account Details

Account Name	Siddheswar Padhan
Account Number	21010110021255
Bank name and IFSC	UCO BANK - UCBA0000727
Branch	UCO BANK BALANGIR

 siddheswar padhan



UPI ID: siddheswar1987@oksbi

Scan to pay with any UPI app

Notes

- No TA/DA will be provided
- No accommodation will be provided. However, participants may contact the organisers to arrange accommodation in the nearby hotels.
- The registration fees include breakfast, lunch and seminar kit only.

Organiser

Chief Patron

Dr. Arvind Kumar Ojha

Principal, Govt Women's College, Balangir

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IQAC Coordinator and Head
Dept of Economics
GWC, Balangir

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Asst. Prof. in History
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GWC, Balangir

Seminar Secretary

Sri Dinesh Singh
Lecturer in History

Smt. Arpita Parichha
Lecturer in History

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Help Desk

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