

National Seminar on **Dynamics of Transformational Process in Tribal India**

Contemporary Regional Scenario,
the Role of Policy Interventions,
and the Desired Strategy
(23 and 24 December, 2025)



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Organised by

M.P. Institute of Social Science Research

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About the Institute

The Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research, located in Ujjain, was founded in 1983 and serves as a leading research institution supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

MPISSR focuses on research, evaluation, monitoring, and training concerning the issues of social, economic, cultural, administrative, and civic dimensions. The core activities of MPISSR address challenges and issues pertinent to Madhya Pradesh and its neighbouring states. Recognising the significance and relevance of researchable areas, MPISSR has identified several thematic areas to guide its research endeavours: Studies in Panchayat Raj and Rural Development; Studies in Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes; Studies in Democracy and Electoral Behaviour; Studies in Social Justice and Human Rights; Studies in Education; Gender Studies; Studies in Environment; Studies in Information Technology and Society; Studies in New Economic Policy and Society, and Studies related to Corporate Social Responsibility.

MPISSR caters to the needs of policy planners, academia, government officials, legislators, non-governmental organisations, students, teachers, doctoral and post-doctoral scholars, other research institutions, and national and international organisations. The Institute, since its inception, has been carrying out systemic studies in the form of research projects on issues of topical importance. Most of these studies are commissioned/ sponsored by the various ministries/agencies of central and state governments, national and international organisations. Full academic freedom and high professional quality are the hallmarks of the Institute's research works and environment.

MPISSR strives to make a strong impact on society through the dissemination of the results of its research studies. Since its inception, the Institute has completed more than 200 studies on wide-ranging topics in the social sciences. These cover applied and policy-related studies on various economic, social, political, and administrative issues of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining states. The faculty members of the Institute have published about 40 books and also 250 articles in national-level refereed journals. Besides these, the faculty has been regularly contributing to leading newspapers to stimulate serious public debate and to create public opinion on many contemporary issues.

MPISSR has been publishing two biannual journals, one in English (Madhya Pradesh Journal of Social Sciences) (UGC-CARE Listed-Group-I) since 1995, and the other in Hindi (Madhya Pradesh Samajik Vigyan Anusandhan Journal) (UGC-CARE Listed-Group-I) since 2003. Both journals disseminate views, debates, research findings, and book reviews related to contemporary social science issues. MPISSR has been regularly organising several training and capacity-building programmes and workshops for research scholars and faculty members of social science disciplines related to research methodology. MPISSR has been organising seminars/conferences regularly on contemporary issues. The faculty members have been engaged in national and international seminars to disseminate the findings of their research work among the academic fraternity.

The Institute is overseen by a Governing Body, which serves as the highest decision-making and executive authority. This body comprises 17 members, including distinguished social scientists, representatives from ICSSR, and government officials from Madhya Pradesh. In addition to this, the Institute has a General Body and a Finance and Administration Committee. The academic initiatives are organised and monitored through the IQAC of the Institute.



About the Seminar

The tribal population in India, though numerically a small minority, represents an enormous diversity of groups. Socio-culturally, it is neither a monolithic group nor a static community. However, the dynamics of social change and the transformation of tribes in India are to be viewed with a somewhat different perspective. Even in Madhya Pradesh, there are 43 designated tribal groups which are at different levels of socio-economic development, from primitive to those who have integrated with the mainstream societies. Though the transformation process among different tribal groups in India has been slower compared to other populations, it does not mean that there has been no change or transformation. Various classical theories have conceptualised the process of social change among tribals in India, broadly divided into three categories, namely, linear, cyclical and dialectic. However, in the modern period, the dominant conceptions of change itself have changed. In the contemporary situation due to globalization, urbanization, rapid population growth, information technology, rapid changes in the modes of livelihood, large scale investments made by the State for development in the 5th and 6th schedule areas, increasing interest and participation in the political process, and the penetration of market forces, the process of social change and transformation have become more complex, and thus, a condition applicable to one situation or one area may not apply to the other. As such, generalisations made on the basis of overall factors become meaningless. The transformational processes in north-east India are not comparable to those in vogue in the Chhota Nagpur region or in the western tribal belt.

Several micro- level studies conducted in different parts of the country point out that there are specific transformational processes at work in their respective areas of studies that cannot be dealt with overall considerations, and therefore, it is needed to integrate area specific transformational processes which are positively helping the society to improve the quality of life, in the development plan, designed for that sub plan area. In fact, voices are frequently being echoed by various political leaders and activists working in tribal areas that their area-specific issues, priorities and aspirations have not been adequately addressed within the current development process. The focus of the proposed seminar is also towards this direction that in which way the area-specific transformational process, which already has a positive impact in that area, may be strengthened and integrated in the overall development programme to be implemented for that sub-plan area.

Keeping in view the above issues in the background, Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain, proposes to organise a two-day National Seminar "Dynamics of Transformational Process in Tribal India: Contemporary Regional Scenario, the Role of Policy Interventions, and the Desired Strategy" on 23rd and 24th December, 2025.



Themes of the Seminar

- Regional pattern of existing development scenario in the tribal areas of India and the transformational processes at work.
- Factors responsible for the transformation in different areas of study, together with their positive and negative consequences.
- The role and efficacy of different state-level interventions at the policy and execution level, together with the difficulties encountered therein.
- The contribution of different social, religious, and other action groups in the transformational process in the post-independence period.
- Desired interventions at the policy and execution level to transform the tribal society and bring it on par with other people living in the same area.

MPISSR invites research papers for participation in the National Seminar. The length of the paper should be between 5000 and 6000 words. The paper presenters may consider focusing on any theme of the seminar. MPISSR will reimburse travel costs and will arrange local hospitality for the invited delegates.

Submission of Full Paper (5000-600 words)
along with ABSTRACT (150-250 words)
on or before November 28, 2025

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