

Soumendra M. Patnaik, MPhil, PhD
Director



- Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi (2023- till present)
- Conference Chair 19th IUAES-WAU WAC, Delhi, India
- Former Vice Chancellor, Utkal University 2017-2020
- Former Vice Chancellor, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (2020)
- President, Indian Anthropological Association (2018-2024)
- Vice President, International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES). (2018-2023)
- Chair, IUAES Commission on Anthropology, Public Policy and Development Practice (2014-2024)
- Founder, Anthropology without Borders, Brazil (India Chapter) (2018)

Research Interests:

Development and Tourism Studies, Indigenous Knowledge, Tribal Studies, Ethnographic method, Kinship and Anthropological Theories



Research Guidance: PhD: 15 MPhil: 48

Publications: Papers: 32, Books: 4
Chapters: 7, Research Projects: 11

Professor Patnaik currently serves as the Director of the Centre for Tribal Studies as well as Head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Delhi, and President of the Indian Anthropological Association. He also holds the position of Chair for the Commission on Policy and Governance within the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES). Previously, he held prestigious roles as the Vice Chancellor of Utkal University (2017–2020) and the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology. With more than two decades of teaching experience in Social Anthropology, Professor Patnaik's career includes serving as a Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Lecturer at the VT Institute for Policy and Governance/Urban Affairs and Planning at Virginia Tech University, USA, from August 2011 to January 2012. He has also been a visiting faculty member at various universities, both within India and internationally, contributing significantly to academic collaboration and exchange. In addition to his academic leadership, Professor Patnaik serves as the Convener of the Research Committee for the Rural, Peasant, and Tribal Commission, and is the Director of Publications for the Ethnographic and Folk Culture Society. His scholarly contributions extend to the editorial realm, where he is a member of the Editorial Board of *Asian Anthropology*, a journal published by the Hong Kong Anthropological Society. Professor Patnaik also holds governance roles within higher education, acting as the Chairman of the Governing Board of Lakshmibai College, University of Delhi, and as Treasurer and Governing Board Member of Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women, University of Delhi. His diverse contributions exemplify a career dedicated to advancing anthropology and fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration on a global scale.

Selected Publication

Ferreira, Vinicius Kauê, Chandana Mathur, and Soumendra Patnaik. 2017. Two Interviews by Vinicius Kauê Ferreira: Chandana Mathur (National University of Ireland, Maynooth) and Soumendra Patnaik (University of Delhi). *American Anthropologist* 119, no. 2 : 348–58.

Patnaik, S. M. 2018. Indian Anthropological Association (IAA). *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, 1-7.

Patnaik, S. M. 2021. Anthropologists Answer Four Questions about the Pandemic. *American Anthropologist*, 123(2): 415.

Patnaik, S. M. 2021. Managing the COVID19 Pandemic in Odisha : Anthropological Reflections. *The Eastern Anthropologist*. 159-172 vol 74 no. 2&3

Patnaik, S. M. 2023. Managing the Disaster of Covid-19: An Analysis of Public Policy in Odisha on India's East Coast. *Issues in Ethnology and Anthropology*, 18(1), 119-135.

Patnaik, S. M. 2023. Community participation strategies in Nepal's disaster management. In *International Handbook of Disaster Research* (pp. 1621-1636). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.