



**Celebration of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Eminent Historian Shri Siva Prasad Das
&
National Seminar on
Cultural Development in Sambalpur**

Organized by: Gangadhar Meher University

CIRCULAR

Celebration of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Eminent Historian Shri Siva Prasad Das and One-Day Seminar on “**Cultural Development in Sambalpur**”. Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur has been committed to promoting and preserving the rich historical, cultural, linguistic and intellectual heritage of Western Odisha through academic programmes, seminars, research initiatives and scholarly engagement.

In this context, the University proposes to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of the eminent historian Shri Siva Prasad Das by organizing a One Day Seminar on “**Cultural Development in Sambalpur**” on 31 August 2026.

Shri Siva Prasad Das is widely regarded as one of the foremost historians of Western Odisha. His landmark Odia work, *Sambalpur Itihasa* (1962), has remained an important reference for understanding the history, culture and socio-political development of the region. His pioneering scholarship documented the early tribal communities of Western Odisha, including the Sabaras, Gonds and Binjhals, as well as the emergence of the Chauhan dynasty under King Balaram Dev and the development of Sambalpur as a significant political and cultural centre. His writings also brought scholarly attention to the enduring tradition of Maa Samaleswari, the presiding deity of Western Odisha, and to the region's rich festivals, folklore, religious traditions and cultural practices, including the celebrated Sital Sasthi Festival. His contribution continues to inspire historical research and strengthen awareness of the distinctive identity and heritage of Western Odisha.

The proposed celebration will therefore provide an appropriate academic platform to honour his enduring scholarly legacy and to encourage meaningful discussion on the history, archaeology, literature, tribal heritage, folklore, language and socio-cultural traditions of the region.

Objectives

The programme aims to:

- Commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of eminent historian Shri Siva Prasad Das.
- Pay tribute to his outstanding contribution to documenting the history and culture of Western Odisha.

- Promote scholarly discourse on the historical, cultural, literary, archaeological and tribal heritage of the region.
- Encourage interdisciplinary research among students, research scholars, faculty members and academics.
- Inspire young researchers to undertake further studies on the history and cultural traditions of Western Odisha.
- Strengthen Gangadhar Meher University's role as a centre for regional historical and cultural studies.

Programme Details

Programme: Celebration of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Historian Shri Siva Prasad Das and One-Day Seminar

Theme: Cultural Development in Sambalpur

Date: 31 August 2026, **Time:** 10.30am

Venue: Conference Hall, Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur

Organized by: Gangadhar Meher University

Coordinator: Dr. Atula Kumar Pradhan, **Mobile:** 9754875987

All concerned faculty members, research scholars, students and interested participants are encouraged to actively participate in this significant academic and commemorative programme and contribute to making the celebration a meaningful tribute to the life and scholarly legacy of Shri Siva Prasad Das.