



Veer Narmad South Gujarat University



One Day National Seminar

on

JanJatiya Sanskriti, Astitva and Vikas

Tribal Culture, Identity and Development

Under The Support Of **RUSA**

Component No. 11 – Faculty Improvement, RUSA & PM-USHA,
Government of Gujarat As Part of Vikas Saptah – 2026

Organized by

**VEER NARMAD SOUTH GUJARAT UNIVERSITY,
SURAT, GUJARAT**



Date:
23 September, 2026



Time:
10:00 AM onwards



Venue:
Mahatma Gandhi Department
of Rural Studies
Veer Narmad South Gujarat
University, Surat



Patron

Dr. Kishorsinh N. Chavda
Vice Chancellor
Veer Narmad South Gujarat
University, Surat



Under The Inspiration Of

Shri Dilip Rana (IAS)
Commissioner,
Higher Education And State Project Director
RUSA & PM-USHA, Government of Gujarat



Convener

Dr. Deepak Bhoje
Head,
Mahatma Gandhi Department of Rural Studies,
Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat



Co-Convener

Dr Shreedhar Nimavat
Assistant Professor,
Mahatma Gandhi Department of Rural Studies,
Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat



Distinguished Invitees

Dr. Yogesh Yadav
State Nodal Officer,
RUSA & PM-USHA,
Government Of Gujarat

Dr. Rameshdan Gadhvi
Registrar,
Veer Narmad South Gujarat
University, Surat



For inquiry
Dr. Dipesh Jha (M): 9687218181
Dr. Sheetal Mali (M): 8469489912



Registration link –
<https://forms.gle/dcjySE9SZVC2uuRq5>



**Scan for
registration**



About University – Veer Narmad South Gujarat University

The vision of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU), as outlined in the University Act, is to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of higher education in the South Gujarat region and ensure inclusive development across all sectors of society. The University aims to produce skilled professionals in diverse fields of human knowledge while aligning its efforts with the broader goals of nation-building. It is dedicated to maintaining excellence in undergraduate and postgraduate education, promoting research, and undertaking extension activities that benefit every section of society. Since its establishment, VNSGU has strived to be a center of academic excellence, addressing regional needs while keeping pace with global educational and research trends. Located in the semi-urban city of Surat, the University campus spans over 210 acres, offering a vibrant and resourceful environment for learning and innovation. The University was originally founded under the South Gujarat University Act, 1965, and became functional in 1966, achieving formal incorporation on 23 May 1967. It received recognition from the UGC in 1968 and was renamed in 2004 to honor the eminent Gujarati poet Narmadashankar Lalshankar Dave (Narmad). Accredited with a 'B++' grade (2.86 CGPA) in 2022, and previously an 'A' grade (3.02 CGPA) in 2017, the University continues to uphold strong academic and administrative standards. VNSGU's mandate is to serve the developmental and educational needs of seven districts and two Union Territories in South Gujarat. Its objectives include ensuring high-quality teaching, awarding degrees to deserving students, and promoting research and extension activities that address regional priorities while contributing to the nation's progress.



Objectives

The seminar aims to:

- 1 Explore tribal culture, heritage, traditional knowledge and community practices.
- 2 Protect tribal identity, rights, cultural heritage and social institutions.
- 3 Integrate indigenous knowledge with sustainable and inclusive development.
- 4 Collaborate among academicians, researchers, policymakers, NGOs and tribal communities.
- 5 Generate knowledge and policy perspectives on tribal socio-economic and developmental challenges.
- 6 Promote sustainable development while preserving tribal culture, identity and heritage.



Participants

- Academicians and Faculty Members
- Research Scholars and Students
- Policy Makers and Government Officials
- NGOs, Tribal Leaders and Development Practitioners



About the Seminar

The Mahatma Gandhi Department of Rural Studies, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, is organizing a One-Day National Seminar on “**JanJatiya Sanskriti, Astitva and Vikas**” (Tribal Culture, Identity and Development). The seminar seeks to create an academic and inclusive platform for understanding the rich cultural heritage, identity, traditional knowledge and developmental concerns of tribal and indigenous communities. Tribal communities possess valuable knowledge of sustainable living, natural resource management, cultural traditions and community-based practices. However, rapid modernization and changing socio-economic conditions can create challenges for the preservation of their cultural identity and traditional heritage. The seminar therefore aims to bring together academicians, researchers, students, policy makers, development practitioners, NGOs and tribal community representatives to deliberate on contemporary issues affecting tribal communities and explore pathways that harmonize traditional wisdom with sustainable and inclusive development.



The Seminar will address the following themes

- **Sanskriti** – Oral traditions, folklore, art forms, and languages.
- **Astitva** – Constitutional rights, land tenure, and identity politics.
- **Vikas** – Sustainable livelihoods, health, and digital literacy challenges.
- Tribal women, indigenous entrepreneurship, and community governance.



Expected Outcomes of the Seminar

The seminar is expected to generate the following outcomes:

- Enhanced understanding of tribal culture, identity, heritage, and contemporary development challenges.
- Knowledge sharing and academic collaboration among researchers, academicians, policymakers, NGOs, and tribal representatives.
- Policy-oriented recommendations for promoting inclusive, sustainable, and culturally sensitive tribal development.
- Strengthened institutional networks and documentation of indigenous knowledge, with an edited research volume and policy brief as proposed outputs.

