



UTKAL UNIVERSITY

51ST

Annual Session of the
Epigraphical Society of India

&

45TH

Annual Session of the
Place Names Society of India



21-23 November 2026



M.K.C.G Auditorium
Utkal University, Vani
Vihar, Bhubaneswar,
Odisha - 751004

Organized by

PG Department of Ancient Indian
History, Culture & Archaeology,
Utkal University



INSCRIPTIONS

LANDSCAPES

CIVILIZATIONS

01

UTKAL UNIVERSITY, affectionately known as Vani Vihar, serves as the proud host for the joint 51st Annual Session of the Epigraphical Society of India (ESI) and the 45th Annual Session of the Place Names Society of India (PNSI).

Established on 27th November, 1943, it is the oldest university in Odisha and the 17th Oldest in India, long revered as the foundational academic pillar and "Mother University" of a region deeply enriched by ancient inscriptions, rock edicts, and historical landmarks. Spanning a historic 399.9 Acre campus in Bhubaneswar, inaugurated by the philosopher-statesman Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the university houses prominent departments in History, Culture, and Archaeology, making it an exceptionally fitting venue for exploring India's rich epigraphical, textual, and toponymical heritage.

By welcoming scholars and delegates from across the nation, Utkal University seamlessly bridges its eight-decade legacy of academic excellence with contemporary research, offering a profound and inspiring backdrop for advancing the study of India's past.

P.G. Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology

Established in the year 1996 on the recommendation of the 8th Plan of the UGC visiting team 1990 to create opportunities for teaching and research in Art, Archaeology and Culture of India, the department offers M.A in Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Ph.D. in AIHC & Archaeology and Tourism. Its curriculum engages foundational and emerging areas of Ancient History and Archaeology, with theoretical background and practical approach. The Department puts forward proficiency in Ancient History, Economic and Socio-Cultural History, Epigraphy, Numismatics, various aspects of Archaeology, Pre-History, Proto-History, Ancient World Civilization, Art Architecture and Paintings of Ancient India and Odisha.

The department also focuses on research, emphasizing the specificities of regional Art, Architecture, Chalcolithic Culture, urbanization and Maritime History of Odisha.

The eminent scholars like Prof. Karuna Sagar Behera, Prof. Ashok Nath Parida, Prof. Sadashib Pradhan, Prof. Sanjay Acharya are among the stalwarts associated with this Department.

*a legacy
of learning.
a landscape
of history .*



02

DEAR COLLEAGUES

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Joint Session of the **51st Annual Session of the Epigraphical Society of India (ESI) and the 45th Annual Session of the Place Names Society of India (PNSI)**, to be held from **21st to 23rd November 2026** at Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Hosted by the P. G. Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Utkal University, the session brings together scholars and researchers engaged in the study of inscriptions, place names, history, archaeology, and related fields. We hope this gathering will provide a stimulating forum for the exchange of ideas, research, and perspectives, while fostering meaningful academic engagement among scholars from across India and beyond.

We look forward to your participation and to welcoming you to Utkal University.



*different scripts,
a shared human story*

03

SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PAPER

Delegate Members are welcome to present papers at the joint session of both conferences. Members may please send their papers along with an abstract not exceeding **300 words** to Dr. Anam Behera, Local Secretary, 51st Annual session of Epigraphical Society of India and 45th Annual session of Place Names Society of India. Papers for the two conferences have to be sent separately in two emails, indicating clearly the theme and also the name of the conference (ESI/PNSI).

Kindly send them to the following e-mail id:

localsecretaryesipnsi2026@gmail.com

THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

Epigraphical Society of India

1. New and Recent Discoveries
2. Interpretations and Reinterpretations: Text and Context
3. South Indian Epigraphs and Epigraphic Studies
4. Inscriptions from Eastern India
5. Religious epigraphs, Pilgrimage records and Image inscriptions (with special focus on Buddhist and Jaina records)
6. Epigraphists and their Contributions
7. Arabic and Persian Inscriptions
8. Harappan script: Issues in Decipherment and Future Engagements
9. Inscriptions and South-East Asian countries related to Indian Script
10. Inscriptions of Odisha

Place Names Society of India

1. Onomastics and Places
2. Onomastics, Commodities, and Human Engagement
3. Onomastic Studies: New Approaches
4. Onomastic Studies with Special focus on Eastern India
5. Toponym Studies- Implications and Scope

04

MEMBERSHIPS & REGISTRATION

Membership of ESI or PNSI is mandatory for being a delegate of the Joint Session. Individuals and institutions who have not yet become members but wish to participate in the session are requested to enroll themselves as member by remitting the membership fee (account details are mentioned in the google form) and submitting the Google Form.

Enrollment for Membership of Epigraphical Society of India:

<https://forms.gle/K5KxRgxtiZwWtYzH8>

Enrollment for Membership of Place Names Society of India:

<https://forms.gle/Zi4KwRKTVeqaaZfa8>

Registration has to be done by **Mid-October**, however membership can be enrolled at the conference venue as well.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the conference can be done by sending the enclosed proforma to the Local Secretary. The filled-in proforma along with the details of the payment shall be sent to the Local Secretary through email to:

localsecretaryesipnsi2026@gmail.com

For Registration, please click on the google link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9n8Gfc6PiH3S2QXqV8wuW1KNgM3v03jVfKTvgY-JDV6JS9Q/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Category	Delegation Fee
Outstation Delegates	Rs. 3000 /- for Hotel Accommodation
	Rs. 1500 /- for Hostel Accommodation
Foreign Delegates	\$ 10 USD (South-East Asian Countries)
	\$ 35 USD (Others)
Local Participants (Who do not need accommodation & travel)	Rs. 200 /- for Students
	Rs. 400 /- for Other Scholars

All Undergraduate and Post-Graduate students and Ph.D. Research Scholars have to produce identity proofs for their current position, duly signed by the Head/ Principal/ Dean of the Institution/ Department.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Payments should be made through online banking drawn in favour of **Dr. Anam Behera, State Bank of India, Utkal University Campus Branch, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751004.**

A/c No.: 45535676135
Branch Name: Utkal University Campus Branch
IFSC Code: SBIN0002135
Bank Address: Utkal University Campus, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751004
Bank Code: 2135.

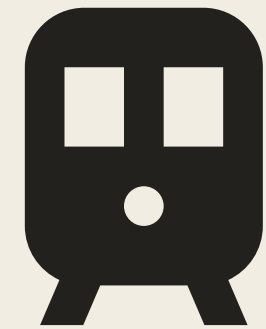
05 TRANSPORT & CONVEYANCE

The delegates will be received from the Railway Station, Bhubaneswar and Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar, by the organizers upon their arrival on the 20th of November.

Those who reach earlier have to make their arrangements for conveyance and accommodation, as we shall be providing hospitality from 20th November, 2026 from 10:00 AM onwards.

Taxi service will be provided from 09:00 AM on 20th November, 2026 from the above-mentioned pick-up points. On the day of the departure, we shall make arrangements for drop-off of the delegates to the above-mentioned railway station and airport at regular intervals.

All are requested to share their arrival and departure timings in advance.



ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation with average facilities will be provided to the delegates at their hotels, which are at a distance of approximately 2 Km from the venue of the conference, i.e., the Utkal University.

Accommodation will be provided from 20th November, 2026 (Evening) to 24 November, 2026 (Morning, 10:00 AM only).

Travel time from the place of accommodation to the venue is approximately fifteen minutes; hence, conveyance to and from the place of accommodation to the venue and back will be provided in the morning and evening only.

For all correspondence, please contact:

Local Secretary

Dr. Anam Behera

Assistant Professor, P. G. Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751004.

Contact No.: +91-9937480688

Convenor

Dr. Sushanta Kumar Patra

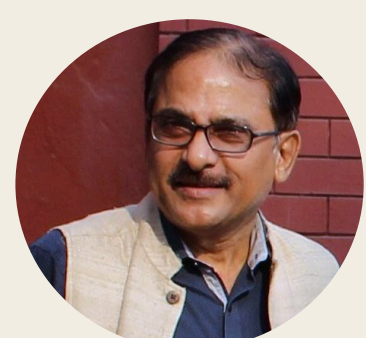
Assistant Professor, P. G. Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751004.

Contact No.: +91-9437301262

06 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

CHIEF PATRON

Prof. Chandi Prasad Nanda
Vice-Chancellor
Utkal University



ADVISORS



Prof. Jagneshwar Dandapat
Chairperson, P.G. Council
Utkal University



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Registrar
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Prof. Jayanti Dora
HOD, Department of History
Utkal University



Prof. Prasanna K. Patra
Department of Anthropology
Utkal University

LOCAL SECRETARY

Dr. Anam Behera
P.G. Department of AIHC&A
Utkal University



CONVENOR

Dr. Sushanta Kumar Patra
HOD, P.G. Department of AIHC&A
Utkal University



NAAC A+ Accredited



UNTIL WE MEET IN BHUBANESWAR

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Utkal University • Bhubaneswar, Odisha

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