

1. Naren Hansdah (A Musician, Eco-Activist, and Much More)

Santhal Tribe, West Bengal

A folk singer residing in West Bengal, Naren offers free access to education to the underprivileged. Naren Hansda, is also an eco-activist and has adopted nearly 30 orphans. He is also trying to convert barren and dry lands into Kush mini forests. He does so primarily with the help of the Mission Foundation of Sido Kanhu, his NGO.

2. Asakho Chase

Angami Tribe; Khonoma Village, Nagaland

Asakho Chase, a 29-year-old lad from Nagaland, who is earning fame for building his own Hobbit Home! When he decided to build a home for himself in the middle of a jungle near Khonoma village, he never imagined that his holiday house would become a trending story on the internet! Chase calls his creation The Hobbit Home, as it resembles the quaint, little beautiful homes of Hobbits from JRR Tolkien's novels. Chase's work needs to be applauded as a lot of hard work went into it. It nearly took him two months to construct this 10x14 feet house. In these two months, Chase spent three whole days just digging 5 feet of wet soil! He used alder wood to make the front wall. The round-shaped, vibrant door and window looks super creative and impressive.

3. Sumitra Gagrai

Ho Tribe, Jharkhand

Sumitra Gagrai, 31, has been working in the field of mental health for 12 years and has changed the lives of more than 36,000 tribal women by reducing maternal and neonatal deaths in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

Born into the indigenous Ho tribe, she has fought poverty and illness to emerge as a revolutionary health-change agent in Jharkhand. Besides mental health, she also works for reducing malnourishment among children, crimes against women and children as well as decreasing the infant mortality rate, for which she was honoured with 'Woman Exemplar Award' in the category of health by CII-Foundation in 2020.

4. Pradhan Birua

Ho Tribe, Jharkhand

Pradhan Birua is leading a group of school students to bring about a positive change in society through youth participation.

An MBA degree holder, Birua, who belongs to the Ho tribe and has worked for 10 years in Bengaluru before returning to his native village to fulfil his dream of spreading environmental consciousness among the youth. Pradhan Birua received India's Youth Icon Award 2018 for his achievements, but he says he has miles to go as far as spreading environmental consciousness is concerned. But right now, the winds of change are already blowing in this tribal hamlet of the Ho community.

5. Gahela Boro

Bodo Tribe, Kokrajhar; Assam

Gahela has been responsible for supporting 40 poor children for Archery who have qualified in SAI. One student has also qualified at the national level in the under-14 category. Gahela supports & cares for 9-10 poor children at home.

6. Anil Narve
Bhil Tribe; Madhya Pradesh

Belonging to the grassroots level, Anil has been working since last 3 years in the sector of social justice. He has been responsible for reducing dowry in the society and obliterating the vicious circle of dowry, child marriage, migration and illiteracy.

7. Ritu Pandram
Gond Tribe, Bilaspur, Chhatisgarh

She belongs to a family of farmers and has studied at her village school. She continued to finish her high school and graduation in Science from IGNTU. She holds a Master's degree in Science from Gurudas University in 2014. She has participated in many national platforms at Pune and Delhi and serves as an inspiration to many girls across the nation. She has campaigned for Swachh Bharat Mission in her area and focuses on eradicating malnutrition through regular interventions.

8. Jogendra Majhi
Deputy Collector Jharsuguda, Odisha; Gond Tribe

Mr Jogendra Majhi is tribal youth leader from Jharsuguda, Odisha. He has an excellent academic achievement and has completed his higher education from JNU. He worked in Koraput district with multiple tribes as a Block Development Officer. Currently he is serving as Deputy Collector of Jharsuguda. Being a tribal youth, he supported many students for their education. His main aim is to support tribal communities in completing their education.

9. Virendra Uikey
Gond Tribe, Maharashtra

Virendra hails from Gondia district of Maharashtra. His area of interest is handicraft and he takes pride in Gond art. He is engaged in manufacturing and selling the Gond craft and has also represented it at the Delhi Haat. Virendra understands the significance of protecting one's customs and traditions. He continually encourages young women and men to promote their tribal art and culture.

10. Jayanti Buruda
Koya Tribe, Malkangiri; Odisha

Jayanti Buruda hails from a small village called Serpalli in Odisha. She is the first female journalist from the district and her tribe, Koya. She holds an MA from the central University of Koraput that is 150km away from Malkangiri. When her parents didn't give her permission to pursue her education, she ran away from home and with the help of her friends completed her graduation. She worked in Bhubaneswar till 2015 and moved back home. For

the last six years she has been trying to understand her home town and finding ways to contribute and better the lives of her tribe and nearby villages.