



Samvaad Patrika

Internal Newsletter for Samvaad 2016

Day # 4, Page # 1

November 18, 2016

Samvaad the unity 2016 celebrates of tribal community



The fourth day of the tribal conclave began on an interesting note to bridge the cultural gap between tribal communities of India. The audience witnessed mixed groups of tribal representatives taking art in the panel discussion on Tribal Perspective on Development as well as the presentations on traditional medicine by tribal healers. The sessions at Tribal Culture Centre (TCC), Sonari led to the celebration of this unity established with the cultural performances by the tribes at Ganesh Puja Maidan, Kadma.

The morning discussion began with

recommendations given to the traditional healers by **Dr. Abhay Bang, Director, SEARCH (Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health)**, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. He said, "Correct documentation of both successful cases and failures is necessary. With basic training you can become barefoot healthcare providers at village level." Voicing their concerns regarding the Reservation act and the forest & land right, the panel discussion on tribal Perspective on Development witnessed enriching thoughts being put forth by the tribal representatives.

Emphasizing on the issue of not getting reservation seats, tribal communities expressed their disappointment over over reservations being demanded by those who do not belong to the backward community. Adding further to the list of consequences of not being given reservation to the STs who truly deserve it, **Vijay Diggri, a member of the Munda tribe of Jharkhand** said, "If Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes are not given first and second grade jobs, how can I call this democracy." Another issue raised during the discussion was regarding the land and forest rights being not given to the tribal communities or being forcefully taken away from them. The tribal representatives of Kerala stated that 50 per cent of the tribal population works in the field of agriculture and 25per cent depend on the sale of the forest by-products. When big conglomerates displace the communities by taking away their land, they are displacing more than 70per cent of the tribal population. Reiterating the objective of Samvaad to unite the tribal communities from across the country, a tribal representative said, "Although there is a communication gap between the tribes living in the country, we all share the same problems and we should stand together to face them."

Adding vibrant hues to the colorful evening of the conclave, the tribes from Assam, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Odisha, Kerala and Nagaland performed their folkdance to celebrate the platform that Samvaad has provided them.

concert by a musical band on the album created.

A tribal fashion show is going to take place on November 19. It has been choreographed by the students of NIFT and we hope to replicate the same to a larger audience in Kolkata during the Kolkata Literary fest. Through this fashion show, we want to promote tribal textiles, handicraft, accessories and musical instruments. The tribal textile, handloom and accessories have immense potential and our initiative is to help the communities take it to the national and international markets.

We wanted to promote film making and photography among communities. For any community to record and preserve its own history, audio visual medium is very effective and feasible. We had a one month long programme called 'Samuday Ke Saath' wherein we called the filmmakers and they screened the movies on tribal issues to the communities, for whom the films were made. More than 4000 people across locations watched the films. We also ran a contest on the best documentary film on tribal issues. We have received more than 25 entries from across the country and we are screening the award-winning documentary films at Samvaad.

We have also added a zing factor to tribal music this year wherein a select batch of our tribal musicians will record and create a music album during Samvaad. Going forward, we plan to have a pan-India

Highlights of the Day

- ★ **Dr. Abhay Bang** suggested the tribal healers to build upon their strengths rather than their weaknesses in order to grow as a community.
- ★ Presentation on traditional medicine made by tribal healers from across the country. Health experts and ethno botanists were also part of the presentation and shared their expertise as well.
- ★ Documentary films on tribal issues were screened at Tribal Culture Centre, Sonari. Some of them being Myang Lang, Hukka Banam, Khelond and The Indigenous.
- ★ Showcasing their folkdance were the Rabha (Assam), Khasi (Meghalaya), Kurumba (Kerala), Santhal & Oraon (Jharkhand), Kisan (Odisha) and Kuki (Nagaland).

Did You Know ?

- ★ *Shewdor mixed with Hivar Gath(local name), found in the dense forests of Maharashtra, has the potential to cure Cancer!*
- ★ *Made of hand-made beads, the Marapen neck tie worn by the tribesmen of Rongmei Naga is the identity of the group. The traditional costume and accessories of this tribal community is made only in white, black and red.*
- ★ The tribes of Uttar Pradesh use the stems of Rubia cordifolia to cure diabetes. The stem is boiled in water and the filtered water is then consumed as a traditional medicine by diabetic patients.

Chiefspeak'



Mr Biren Bhuta, Chief, Corporate Social Responsibility

Johar!

This year, our attempt has been to take Samvaad one step ahead in terms of its reach and impact. We organised regional Samvaads in Mysore, Vadodara and Shillong prior to the main event. The attempt was to make Samvaad touch different corners of the country and also for Tata Steel to reach these places.

Click Corner



Lasting Impressions



Dr. Abhay Bang, Director, SEARCH (Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health), Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

"Samvaad is a unique platform to gather tribes from across the country. There are 700 tribes in India and there is no communication between them. I appreciate the efforts of Tata Steel to bridge this cultural drift."



Siyaram Neware, Traditional healer, Maharashtra

"The platform that we have got to talk about our knowledge on traditional medicine was unexpected. We have received great reception by the public till now and I hope that Tata Steel invites us next year as well to display the herbal medicines that we make."



Tapan Baidoia, West Bengal

"Along with promoting tribal culture, Samvaad has been able to help us promote the tribal handicraft that we make and sell. It takes a lot of effort on the part of the artistes who make these handicraft products and Samvaad is a platform where we are appreciated for our work"



Mr Ramanunni, Kerala

"I have been working closely with tribal communities from across the country for the past one decade and have also been part of several seminars where the issues of tribal communities are raised but not by the communities themselves and rather by researchers and anthropologists. This is the first time in my career where I have seen a platform that truly respects the tribal communities and gives them a platform to voice their opinions."

Samvaad Trending

Day-4 #SamvaadDay4

Trended across India for 3+ hours

@rohitneema3

Check out diverse & vibrant tribes of India & their cultural dance #SamvaadDay4 @TataSteelLtd <https://t.co/7o7VtpfT1T> <https://t.co/rbcMHJ4nQS>

@nishajg

The conclave Samvaad2016 is really bringing distinct tribe from our country. #SamvaadDay4 @TataSteelLtd

@dare2zak

Wow! #samvaadDay4 has been rocking since Day 1. @TataSteelLtd <https://t.co/AnaZyUds5z>

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For further information please visit <http://www.tatasteelindia.com/events/samvaad/samvaad-2016.html>