

Volume 02 | February 2022

# TRIBAL NOISE

Sustainability|Forest|Culture|Art

## **Tulsi Gowda**

A Living Encyclopedia  
Of The Forest

## **Sustainable Cities**

The Future The  
World Needs  
To Know

## **The Sentinelese Lands**

The Forbidden  
Terrain

## **The Korowai Tribe**

The Treehouse  
People

## **Cholanaikkan**

50 years of  
Transformation



[tribalconnect.org.in](http://tribalconnect.org.in)

**On the cover**

Padma Shri Tulsi Gowda

Image Courtesy: Google

# ABOUT THE FOUNDER!!!!



## **Ananya Paul Dodmani** Founder & Trustee Tribal Connect

Ananya Paul Dodmani, Founder of the Tribal Connect, was born in a tribal town of Assam. She was brought up among the indigenous of the town, who fascinated her with the folklores, myths, and stories. What started as a curiosity soon became her mission to learn and work for the well-being of the tribe and the indigenous, after a personal incident with the militants of a tribe.

Though she was an indirect victim of the incident, she saw what needed to be done to change the lifestyle and bridge the gap between the tribes and the civilians. She saw education as the tool to bring this change and has imparted it among the varied tribes and ages for many years.

Classroom educator and Criminal psychologist by profession, she offers more than 90% of her earnings to the organization, for works on the indigenous and tribal education, hygiene, shelter, and medication, etc, that has led to the reformation of several tribal militants into civilians. 20 years down this road, she has worked with tribes and has been successful in imparting education, hygiene, non-violence, etc. She has worked with several Non-Governmental Organizations before starting Tribal Connect in 2020, and is still a trustee in several organizations, helping with their causes.

As a Sustainable Menstrual Warrior, she has also made 60,000 women across India adopt a hygienic lifestyle, by teaching them to make bio-degradable sanitary pads. Her vision of getting the tribes and indigenous recognized and empowered has become the objective of the magazine and the organization.

She has improved the life of 18 main tribes and 62 sub-tribes in 8 Indian states and her initiatives have made more than 10 lakh people take part in the cause. Appreciating her works towards the environment, tribal upliftment, women empowerment, bravery, courage, and valor she has been awarded

**KARAMVEER CHAKRA,  
KALKI GAURAV  
SAMMAN, RASHTRIYA  
SURAKSHA BAL  
SAMMAN, ICONIC  
PERSONALITY  
AWARD,**

and so on. Her goal is to reach the indigenous all around the world and help them with the necessities to live. This magazine is a tool to make the world aware of the tribes, their lifestyle, needs, and struggles. Also to inspire people to be a part of this cause. Her belief that every individual has the right to empowerment and better living, and that can be achieved through sustainable living and education has brought such visible changes in several lives. She considers this work as her life's purpose and vows to continue to work for the tribal upliftment even in the distant future.

# Meet Our Mentor



## **Srilakshmi Mrudula Nallagonda** **Mentor: E-magazine & Blogging**

An Ex-IT Professional, an Author, a Blogger, a Vlogger, a MasterChef, a Woman Changemaker, an Artist and above all an Independent Strong Woman. She loves to be with people, gives a helping hand when in need. She wants to work for a better community & create a happy space to live in for everyone around. She is the mentor for blogging & e-magazine with Tribal Connect.

# From The Editor



## Why reading an Indigenous Magazine is so important now?

We say our country is known for its diversity, and we celebrate it and protected it. But do we protect the origin of the diversity? We may all live in urban areas, but our roots and the origin of our identity, tradition, culture, and even religious trace back to the indigenous and tribes. We owe them for our survival, identity, diversity, nature, and centuries old tradition. And as every individual, living on this earth, we have the responsibility to make our society better as we alone don't make the life we live. Our everyday life has the work of thousands of people in it and we repay a few of them through our job, but we leave behind few as they are not accessible. One of them is the Indigenous. We, at tribal connect, make the images accessible and repay them for their work towards nature and the environment, with education, healthcare, shelter, etc. Tribal connect is all about educating the tribes and indigenous to lead a better lifestyle leaving their tradition, belief, culture, and land untouched. We want them to lead a safe and better life that doesn't force them to adopt violent and barbaric acts. We believe that education is the key to clear such ignorance which is also the magazine's core belief.

I believe in the proverb "pen is mightier than the sword"- that word can make and break depending on the individual's motive. We, at Tribal connect, do both. We make the indigenous lives better by breaking the gap between them and the civilians, through this magazine. We educate the tribes of the civilian lifestyle and we educate the civilians after tribal lifestyle, thereby bridging the gap so the two poles can help each other to attain the vision of better sustainable living and thus a better society.

**-Sujitha Murali Kumar**  
**Editor & Content Contributor**  
**Tribal Connect**



# Meet Our Team



## Akshansh Agarwal

Akshansh is an Engineering student in the computer science branch, enthusiastic, passionate to work with Tribal Connect as an intern in graphics designing. He always looks forward to help the Tribal Community as a Tribal Connect member.

## Lakshya Bhalla

Always finding the best in all things, I started with a bachelor's in commerce which later gave way to the realization of how my calling is to help others. That led to a master's in psychology which gave view of how a solution can be derived and how not to just ponder over the problems that you have. Right now doing a stint in advertising as a Copywriter cause writing has always been a passion and I chose Tribal Connect on the same principle of what they are here to do - Help those and be the voice of those who everybody tries to step over. Let's together bring back the power to those who need it the most.





## M J Amrithalaxmi

M J Amrithalaxmi is an artist by profession with passion and interest in designing. Since her childhood, she has been seen their tribal community being neglected and taken for granted. She wishes to empower them and introduced their richness of culture, heritage as well as humanity through the team. She looks forward to helping the tribal community as a tribal connect member.

## Neha G Vaidya

Neha is an Engineering student having a passion to work as an intern-graphic design for the tribal community she looks forward to helping the tribal community with her creativity.





## Poornima Dangil

Hello readers, I am Poornima Dangil, a 20 year old Delhi based girl currently doing my masters in hospitality administration from NCHM-IH. I belong to 'Munda' tribe family from Jharkhand. Few months back I came across Tribal Connect's post on Instagram which was about 'Ho' tribe, also a tribe from Jharkhand. That day I felt, this is the best platform for me where I can let everybody know about me, my tribe, culture and land. And I believe with Tribal Connect I can aware everyone about the tribal/indigenous communities.

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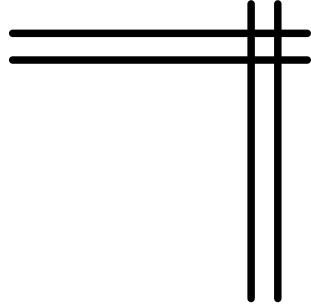
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# The Korowai Tribe

Have you ever dreamt of living in a treehouse? Amidst nature and away from the regular hustle-bustle?

Well, this privilege is being relished by a tribal group deemed as the Korowai tribe that has been residing in their self-constructed tree houses for ages.

Living almost 100 ft above the ground level in the dense forest of southeastern West Papua in the Indonesian province of Papua, this tribal community that entails almost 3000 people were living away from the eyes of the rest of the world until they were discovered in 1974.

The construction of these treehouses was backed by a defensive mechanism so that their sky-touching height can help these people prevent rival clans from encroaching their territory to capture their children and women for slavery and cannibalism. Nevertheless, treehouses also act as a shield to these people from the attacks of wild animals.

As a community, these people are quite anti-social. They usually prefer living in small clans that usually comprise three to five small families. Though men and women hold equal rights, strong and older men command more respect and honour in a particular clan. Inter-clan warfare is quite common among them.

The leader of individual clans is usually the most dominating and powerful man in the clan. Unlike most tribal communities, their leadership is not based on any sort of family hierarchy where the leadership is passed on from father to son.

From getting raw materials for construction to getting food, they completely rely on nature for fulfilling their everyday needs.

Constructed on banyan or living trees, these houses are built using strong branches with their roofs covered with large leaves. **It usually takes 2-3 days to build these houses, and they usually last for three to five years.** The construction is completely manual and labour-intensive.

Being proficient fishermen as well as hunters, their food requirements are usually fulfilled by hunting down wild animals and catching fish from the sea. For knocking down their prey, they use self-made weapons.

## TRIBE THAT LIVES ON TREE



The most useful element of nature onto which they rely upon in their daily life is undoubtedly, fire. From cooking food to getting heated in harshly cold climates, and protecting themselves from wild animals, fire plays a potent role in their life.

As the onus of feeding as well as ensuring the security of the family is on the shoulders of men, they usually go hunting. As male children become older enough to venture out into the wild, they began to accompany their parents on hunting.

Before being discovered in 1974, the people of the Korowai tribe were completely unaware of the existence of people other than them in this world. It has been even claimed that these people are cannibals and eat human flesh. However, this claim remains clueless to date.

Since their discovery, some Korowai people have migrated to nearby villages to seek a better life and more opportunities while others still prefer to live in nature, miles away from the comforts of the modern-day world. Though the world is growing towards better living conditions, building tree houses is an art and some resorts are looking for such unique living spaces to attract tourists. There are ways to uplift these communities without asking them to desert their beliefs and lifestyles that are unique.

-Dev

Image courtesy: Google



# Success Stories Of Terrace Garden

~ Sohini das

Content Creator, Tribal Connet

Modern residential developments don't have yards, gardens, or compounds, so rooftop gardens are the hallmark of urbanism. This is an easy and very practical concept to utilize the free space on your terrace. The practice of rooftop gardening involves maintaining any type of garden on the terrace of a building or house.

In History, Babylon's Hanging Gardens was one of the most famous roof gardens that were constructed by King Nebuchadnezzar was built about 75 feet above the ground.

## What drives people to construct terrace gardens?

Though it is a tough task to maintain a garden, many people hold on to it for the sense of happiness and benefits it provides.

Gardening and plants also are effective stress busters for several others. "Our clients also ask us for specially designed gardens, to reinforce the sweetness of their houses," said Mr. Puneeth, founder of The Plant Boutique.

**Also, many restaurants like better to have a garden within their premises to feature the atmosphere of the hotel.**

The growth of indoor plants in offices and companies has also become popular recently, adding color and lights up the workspace. Jayalakshmi said that she was interested in buying organic vegetables because she considered that they were the easiest to prepare.

**But Eventually, she realized that she couldn't depend on or trust any of the vendors and that she ventured to grow vegetables on her own. now, the vegetables she needs are nearly all grown by herself.**

To obtain pesticide-free vegetables, many youngsters and new house owners see the advantages of 'horticulture therapy'. Organic terrace farming is not only about using organic manure and contents it also grows small ecosystems on the terrace. A small group of individuals adopts gardening to grow medicinal plants also.

Many plants are believed to hold medicinal values. Tulsi, Basil, Parsley, and Lemon Balm are a few well-known medicinal plants grown in urban gardens. Whatever might be the driving factor, the very fact remains that urban gardening is catching the eye of people and is growing at a fast pace.

## Rooftop gardening and business:

I love the way restaurants garnish their vegetables! Have you ever wondered how the greens could be so small? Modern technologies make it possible to cultivate such vegetables, known as micro-greens. The cotyledon leaves of micro-greens are harvested just after the leaves of the plant have bloomed. Their nutritional value is higher than that of their counterparts. In addition to the stem and leaves, their size ranges from an inch to three inches. This method is ideal because the time from seeding to harvest is relatively short (about 15 days).

Gifting plants is also one of the most popular options. Plants are gifted as a way to help others start their gardens. Innovative ideas have been developed for plant-gifting. For example, you can select designer pots and ceramic pots with creative designs. Eco-friendly coir pots offer durability and visual appeal. The aesthetic appeal of ceramic pots comes from their use as well.

## Is urban gardening the wave of the future?

The global population is forecast to reach 9.6 billion in 2050, according to a study conducted by the United Nations in 2015. This huge population growth should be accompanied by proportionately higher food production. For the growing population, more food needs to be produced. There will be a 70 per cent increase in the food supply

The development of sustainable food production will become even more important, given that 80 per cent of arable land is already used and rapid urbanization is set to continue. In 2050, it is projected that 70% of the world's population will live in cities, including 50% of the world's population today. According to a study, the gardening industry will spend over \$49.3 billion by 2023. The trend of urbanizing society and the potential of booming industries can be seen by this number.

The groundwater levels are already depleting and soils are losing fertility. One major risk factor is air pollution, and it is the number one cause of many diseases. The number of deaths caused by it has risen dramatically. So, ultimately, urban gardening is gaining popularity. Considering the wide variety of options available, we want to encourage everyone to plant something green around themselves, for their good and the good of society.

## Make a difference by going green!





# Cholanaikkan Tribe

## The 50 years Transformation

One of the most isolated as well as rapidly diminishing tribes of India, the **Cholanaikkan tribe** lives amidst the dense forest, about 80 km away from **Kozhikode, in the state of Kerala**.

Infamous as Austro Asian, they are said to have migrated from the forest of Mysore to seek refuge in the dense forest of Kerala after getting defeated in the war against rival tribes centuries ago.

Due to their preference to live away from the world, they have encountered formidable challenges in every aspect of their life. To the extent that within 30-50 years, their population has plummeted from 400+ people during the early 1970s to just 170, as of 2021.

At present, the community entails merely 56 families. Each group within their community has 5 to 7 small families within it, known as Denman.

The primary reason for such a drastic fall in their community was the lack of basic amenities such as food, shelter, and clothes, that the community needed to survive during the 1970s. Eventually, hordes of tribes died owing to starvation, diseases, natural calamities as well as frequent wild animal attacks.



**However, since the last 2 decades, there have been various initiatives taken by the government of Kerala in fostering the basic amenities for this about-to-end tribal community.**

Within their territory, the government has facilitated the building of safe as well as sustainable houses for the community members that will help them to survive the harsh forest conditions as well as boisterous climate.

Years ago, they were roaming completely naked and uncovered. But now, they are allotted clothes periodically on the behalf of the government as well as other charitable organizations working for the upliftment of these tribal communities.

In an attempt to promote their privacy and natural habitat, the government has passed strict laws that prohibit people or tourists from invading their territory. This is primarily done to protect their culture as well as their deteriorating population.

Government officials have also taken the onus to supply sufficient quantities of food items such as wheat, rice, spices, potatoes, etc along with other necessities every Wednesday, thereby resolving the problem of scarcity of food resources within their community.

In an attempt to provide financial aid, the government has also begun to trade with them for bamboo baskets and other things manufactured by the community members using forest resources. The money is used by the community members to send the youngsters for better studies in nearby villages and cities.

Although the literacy rate is still quite not as expected, efforts are being made periodically by the government to promote the culture of education within the community.

At last, some positive changes also exist at the level of community. For instance, **the women members of the community have also secured equal rights like men**. They now assist men in day-to-day activities such as hunting, transportation as well as in official meets with the government officials. In a nutshell, over the past 50 years, the Cholanaikkan tribe has undergone some tremendous changes that have opened doors of new opportunities for youngsters to explore the world. Such developments are being made across the country among the tribes and indigenous for better lives. And people like us can be a part of it by extending our support to the cause.

-Dev

Image courtesy: Google



# Sustainable Cities

## And What It Tells The World

All of us have come across the term 'sustainability or 'a sustainable future', but what does it mean? Why do we need to care about it, is it something that we are not aware of or just not interested in because it is not directly affecting us, right? WRONG! If we do not bring our attention to this topic, so many things will go wrong and spiral so out of control that it will not be easy to come out of such a pickle unscathed.

So, let's first get familiar with the term sustainability and the concept of the evolving eco-cities all around the globe. Being sustainable simply means you are keeping in mind all the social, economic, and environmental impacts of your actions and taking the necessary steps to reduce your carbon footprint.



Unsustainable measures are contributing highly to the depletion of our ecosystem which ultimately has severe repercussions on global climate change. 28 countries, following the United Nations, are already making active progress in the process of making our world a better place for our future and present generation. The governments have enacted many schemes and developmental projects to ensure that their citizens are aware and involved. The main focus is on minimizing the required inputs of energy (by finding renewable and alternate sources), food and water, and the output of heat and CO<sub>2</sub>. In addition, drastic steps need to be taken to reduce waste and recycle responsibly to prevent city impact on climate change. India is an active promoter of the cause and is the proud owner of sustainable cities like Auroville (founded 1968) and GIFT (under construction) with Noida being chosen to become a model of SDG by 2025.

With this hard-hitting globalization, we need to reimagine our approach towards everything and promote a more sustainable architecture (in which alternate materials used are better quality, environment-friendly, and LEED-certified). Moreover, a sustainable lifestyle should be adopted like walking or cycling to your office or at least carpooling to avoid the never-ending suburban sprawl. Shifting our focus towards solar energy, wind energy, and hydrology will put a stop to this rapid destruction of our natural resources and make the earth a healthier planet. This will also reduce the urban heat island effect. Concepts like - a car-free city and the introduction of a sustainable transportation system that is fast, reliable and affordable to all, compact cities or pocket neighbourhoods, and smart cities or eco-cities are already in the pipeline. Due to the recent impact of climate change, all countries have strict deadlines to achieve their targets. The United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG-11) is all about looking out for mankind. It is keeping us on the right path of achieving the sustainable future that we dream of, and this is not a far-fetched dream too. There are just a few tweaks that the existing cities need to make like - having an improved waste recycling system with affordable housing for all, increasing their green area per square foot, using water and electricity efficiently, investing heavily in renewable energy sources and keeping a check on their ecological footprint and the government also needs to create more and equal employment opportunities that are certain to give the economy a boost.

But, where does this all lead to if not to confusion, panic, and rejection? True, it's not easy to accept a change and the initial reaction is always hesitation. It becomes the responsibility of the governing bodies to introduce the changes strategically while keeping in mind the limitations and the viewpoints of the public. By doing so the general populace knows that they are being heard and realize that they are the first and the biggest part of all plans. No step is small and all of them count and the world needs these changes to have occurred like yesterday. We can all contribute by focusing on our actions first and should try to reduce our carbon footprint. This shall be achieved by incorporating certain small changes in our lifestyle such as preferring healthier food options, carpooling, using public transit, etc. This can also be achieved by facilitating better waste management programs, replacing petrol burning cars with electric vehicles (Tesla is doing a good job in this sector), planting a tree whenever we get a chance and loads more. So, do your little bit and make conscious efforts, take responsible decisions and just be a good human because we are doing the same.

-Lakshya Bhalla

Image courtesy: Google

# Tulasi Gowda

## A Living Encyclopaedia of the Forest



Tulsi Gowda is an Indian environmentalist born in 1944 into the Halakki tribe family within the Honnali village, Ankola taluk, within the Uttara Kannada district in the Indian state of Karnataka. Gowda's father died when she was just 2 years old, which made her work alongside her mother as a day laborer at a local nursery. As she was born in an impoverished family and prohibited from receiving formal education, she became illiterate. At a very early age, she was married off to an older man whose name was Govinde Gowda. She used to work at a nursery for 35 years as a daily laborer until she was recognized and given a permanent position in recognition of her work towards conservation & extensive knowledge/information of botany. At the nursery, Gowda was responsible for taking care of the seeds that were to be grown and harvested at the Karnataka Forestry Department. She then worked at the nursery as a permanent employee for 15 more years till she retired at the age of 70 years old. During her entire time at her workplace, she contributed and worked directly to help the afforestation efforts by the forest department by sharing her traditional knowledge of the land that she gained through experience.

### What is the legacy she is carrying on?

She carries a legacy of planting 1 lakh trees on her own in Karnataka, which made a lasting impression on the people of her community. Nagaraja Gowda of Uttara Kannada District states that "Tulsi is the pride of their community". Yellappa Reddy, a retired officer, also commends Gowda's lasting commitment to her community, citing the fact that Gowda has planted and identified over 300 medicinal plants that have since been used to treat ailments within their village. She has been teaching the children of her village about the importance of the forest as well as how to find and care for seeds. Not only on forestation and environmentalism, but She has also worked for women's rights within her village.

### Why was she chosen to get this prestigious award "Padma Shri"? What is so special about her?

She has planted over 30,000 saplings, has been interested in environmental conservation for over 60 years planting saplings and maintaining nursery facilities. She has not only planted saplings that will grow, but they also turned to be trees that help make the world a better place to live. She has also helped prevent poachers from destroying wildlife and has worked to prevent many forest fires.

### Why are the netizens hailing her?

When the images were out, where Tulasi Gowda received the prestigious award, that particular picture was labelled as "Image Of The Day". This image made netizens' hearts warm. PM Modi clasped the woman's hand and conversed with her.

### Career & Awards

**1986 - Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra** which recognizes pioneering and innovative contributions made by individuals or institutions in the field of afforestation and wasteland development.

**1999 - Karnataka Rajyotsava Award** The second-highest civilian honor of Karnataka.

**2020 - Padma Shri award** The fourth-highest award given to citizens of India. She has received this for her outstanding contributions to tree conservation.

### How has Tulasi Gowda made a mark on entry to Rashtrapati Bhavan Hall?

According to the videos & photos which were leaked online during the ceremony, Gowda has walked barefoot into the Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall. She greeted PM Narendra Modi before meeting the President to receive the award from him.

### Why is this Padma Awardee Known As 'Encyclopaedia Of Forests'?

With no formal education, she has made many contributions towards preserving the environment. Her work has been honored by the Government of India and different other organizations. She is also known as the "Encyclopaedia of Forest" and by her tribe as the "tree goddess" for her ability to recognize the mother tree of every species of tree, extensive knowledge of trees and herbs. Forest nurseries are like children to Tulsi Gowda, as indicated by the way she looks after the seedlings. She has invaluable knowledge of the forest and medicinal plants.

### What is that one question she gets every time?

It is widely questioned how Tulsi Gowda gathered her knowledge of the forest. When asked about it she says that she can not explain how but it is as if she can "speak the language of the forest." Her tribe, the Halakki Vokkaliga, also has a deeply rooted heritage where the matriarchy is connected to nature and is in charge of caring for the land.

- Srilakshmi Mrudula Nallagonda

Image courtesy: Google



# Sansi Tribe

## Their Everyday Challenges



### Introduction

The Sansi is a nomadic criminal tribe, originally centered in Rajputana, the north-western region of India, but were driven out by Muslim invaders in the 13th century. Now, this tribe is mainly concentrated in Rajasthan and is also spread in the rest of India. This tribe mostly resides in the Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. The Sansi people claim their ancestry from the Rajputs, but according to folklore, their ancestors were the Bedias, another criminal caste. According to another theory, the origin of the Sansi tribe is believed to be from a person named 'Sansmal'.

The Sansis depended on animal theft and other petty crimes for a living. Criminal Tribes Acts of 1871, 1911, and 1924, declared such crimes and their nomadic life illegal. The reforms introduced by the Indian government were also difficult to implement, as they were counted among the untouchables and any land or animals given to them were sold or exchanged by them.

Some of the sansi tribes are landless farmers and some work as labourers, while the people of other sansi tribes sell liquor. Some make children work in shops. A very small number of people are nomadic or strollers. Unfortunately, most of the sansi tribe people are still living in poverty. Their literacy rate is very low. That is why there is a need to present the gospel orally. These communities are kept in isolation as they are considered to be of criminal category. A lot of people dismiss them to protect themselves. At present, a caste council has been formed to look after their needs and settle disputes between them. Some of the sansi tribes have adopted the religion of Islam while most of the people are still following the Hindu religion. Despite all of these, they still maintain their tribal customs.

Some of the people in this tribe are farmers and labourers, although the majority still lead a nomadic life.

The Sansi people consider their lineage to be patriarchal and follow the family tradition of the Jats.

The matrimonial relations of young men and women are done by their parents. Premarital sex is taken very seriously.

The ceremony of engagement is unique in this tribe which takes place when two nomadic groups by chance meet at a place while roaming around.

In the Sansi tribe, goats are sacrificed in front of the Goddess on the occasion of Holi and Deepawali.

Meat and wine are their favourite food. In meat, they like the meat of fox and bull.

Their religion is general Hinduism, but some people have converted to Islam.

### Future challenges of Sansi tribes?

During the British rule in India, the Sansi tribe was deemed as criminals, which was a matter of disgrace to the community. This stigma is with them even today, which has made their life difficult. They are sometimes abandoned by other communities as well. Due to being nomadic, they lack permanent occupation and settlements. Sansi tribe have other malpractices like the rituals of Kukdi so it can be inferred that even today when living in the digital era, they have a lack awareness of modern society

### What can be done to reform their life?

Government should create an awareness program to bring them into the mainstream of society. Because of their background custom, people hate them. So people should try to cooperate with them at least for those who left their malpractices. Education works as the most important weapon that the sansi tribe can use to remove the stain on their tribe

### Conclusion

As we all know that India is a developing country and it aspires to become a developed one. To reach this, India should rethink its definition of development and include inclusive growth. The feeling of desertion, isolation from the mainstream, and dissatisfaction in tribal communities can slow down the pace of development. That is why adequate demands and issues must be kept in mind while formulating and implementing policies for the tribal areas of India. Apart from all this, there is a need to empower the tribal community socially, educationally, and economically so that they can carve their path for building a better lifestyle and thereby getting back with the mainstream people.

- Saloni Kumari

Image courtesy: Google





# The United Nation's Goals For The World.

-SALONI KUMARI  
Editor, Tribal Connect

Under the 'Agenda for 2030 Sustainable Development' in the 70th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in the year 2015, 17 development goals i.e. SDGs and 169 objectives have been adopted by the member countries. According to the report (1987) issued by the Bert land Commission under the 'World Commission on Environment and Development (1983) – Development is sustainable to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the coming generation to meet its own needs. UN Agenda 2030 (17 Development Goals)

1. No Poverty.
2. Zero Hunger.
3. Good Health & well-being.
4. Quality Education.
5. Gender Equality.
6. Water and Sanitation.
7. Affordable & Clean Energy.
8. Economic Growth and Excellence.
9. Infrastructure, Industry, and Innovation.
10. Reduction of Inequalities.
11. Sustainable Cities.
12. Consumption and Production.
13. Climate Action.
14. Life below water.
15. Life on land.
16. Ecosystems Peace and Justice.
17. Partnership for the goal.

In this article, we shall see the 5 most prominent goals most countries are working towards achieving.

## No poverty- end poverty in all its forms

1st goal of the 2030 sustainable development goals is to eliminate hunger and all forms of malnutrition and double the productivity of agriculture in the next 10 years. Sustainable food production and farming method will be needed to make post-access food consistently accessible to all. South Asia still has the highest burden of starvation at 28.51 million and malnourished people comprise 40% of India's population.

**Despite employing more than half of the country's population, agriculture contributes only 15% to India's GDP.**

To make arrangements for providing safe, nutritious, and adequate food to the people throughout the year most of the member countries are working and coordinating with each other by raising funds through charity. Along with this, the elimination of malnutrition in all its forms by 2030, which includes achieving the internationally agreed target of under 5 and stunting by 2025.

## Zero hunger

According to a recent report by the United Nations, the goal of achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal that is Zero Hunger has been affected due to the coronavirus pandemic. The 'Zero Hunger' goal works in conjunction with several other goals such as poverty alleviation i.e. 1st goal, better health and well-being i.e. 2nd goal, and clean drinking water i.e. 6th goal. Recently hunger report on food security in India was released, in which India's rank looked very bad. Due to the coronavirus, the problem of food security has increased even more.





According to the United Nations, food security depends not only on availability but also on how much food is accessible. If food security and poverty are seen parallel to each other then to reduce poverty we should not only provide low food prices but also improve income.

### **Good health and well being**

It is the third goal of the United Nations' sustainable development goals. Illness does not only affect the wellbeing of an individual but it becomes a burden on the family and public resources, weakens the society, and reduces capacity. The good health and well-being of people of all age groups are central to sustainable development.

**Prevention of disease is not only necessary for survival, but it gives opportunity to all, gives strength to economic growth and prosperity.**

The international community has committed to global efforts to end diseases, strengthen treatment and healthcare systems, and address new and emerging health issues through the Third Goal of Sustainable Development. For this, new thinking and research are needed in these areas so that public policy efforts can be taken forward. And finally, health and well-being are closely linked to the quality of our environment, and Goal 3 also aims to drastically reduce the number of diseases and deaths caused by air, water, and soil pollution and contamination.

### **Quality education**

If we compare the modern world with the ancient world then today there is more

knowledge than ever before, but still, it does not have any special effect. Globally, countries have done many things to increase enrolment in schools and colleges to make education accessible at the grassroots level, but still, the work has not reached its destination. Despite this, there has not been a tremendous improvement in skills. So **United Nations' 4th goal talks about quality education for all. Ensuring all the children complete, free, equitable, and quality education leads to all girls and boys having access to quality education** and early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education and make themselves parallel to the world skill.

### **Gender equality**

Discrimination against women and girls should end everywhere. Be it public or private. All such activity should be ended which includes trafficking and sexual exploitation and any other form of exploitation. The UN's main goal is to end child marriage, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation and promote gender equality and direct government to formulate policies for the empowerment of women and girls at all levels. To provide equal rights concerning financial services, ownership, and control of natural resources, as well as economic resources, we should promote education and create awareness about financial independence and women's rights among the people. If India is to achieve the goals then such a policy will have to be made which harmonizes the policies in all the sectors, and at the same time to implement these policies, we should work at the administrative and ground level. Attention will have to be given to the common and participatory.

**If we succeed in achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030, then India can become a developed and prosperous nation.**

# The Sentinelese Lands

## The Forbidden Terrian

-LAKSHYA BHALLA

### Introduction

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI) are located at the junction of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea and are home to many indigenous groups. These tribes have inhabited the islands for as long as 60,000 years and welcome anybody with hostility who even tries to interact or get close with them. It may be because they are protective of their heritage or they just want their peace and are happy in their primitive ways of life which are not like that they live under a rock or something but their cultures have evolved and thrived with time which had led them to live a healthy life. If you are lucky enough to catch a glimpse of these self-sufficient hunter-gatherers you will see them donning a bow and arrow or a spear which morphs into being a part of their attire and is a rare and beautiful sight to see.

### Communities

There are mainly 6 endangered indigenous communities living in the A&NI, namely: The Great Andamanese (<100), The Jarawa (<500), The Onge(<200), The Sentinelese (50-200) which together are called the 'Negrito' tribes and, The Shompen (<300), and The Nicobarese which are a part of the 'Mongoloid' tribes. There is always a looming danger of getting wiped out just like how they've already lost their cultural and linguistic identity, and instances like a natural calamity or the construction of the Andaman Trunk Road which runs through a Jarawa reserve brings more negative than the positive out of the tribe members. This has enhanced their vulnerability and probably is the reason why they refrain from maintaining a cordial relationship with the government or any other individual unlike except Jarawa who have been friendly with the authorities since 1974.

### Problems faced

Because of such seclusion and next to zero contact with the outside world, the members of these tribes have very low immunity against many of the diseases. Thus, they cannot and should not come in contact with outsiders, because the little contact they made has been a large factor in bringing these beings to the brink of extinction on many occasions. One such incident was the attempt of colonization of these tribes by the British Empire in which they failed in their first attempt when the tribals were able to fetch them off but with a lot of casualties, bringing their population to less than half and then again it trimmed down when the British were successful in capturing the islands after the famous battle of Aberdeen, 1859. All these tribes have been given the status of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) by the Government of India (GOI) because only a handful of their members remain.

Out of all the tribes, the Sentinelese are outright the most hostile and isolated and have preserved their culture from any outside influences. If at any moment the authorities or anthropologists try to show an overture to them (like offering them gifts of coconuts, food, etc.), it stirs up the protective instinct of the members and results in the showering of arrows and stones from the trees or the beach by the tribe members, very much how they treat a poacher or a drifter. This has resulted in their home gaining the title of 'the hardest place to visit in the world' and as of right now any access to the North Sentinel Island is strictly forbidden

### Conclusion

In 2018, The GOI lifted the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) status from 29 islands of ANI to promote and foster tourism in the area which does not play in favour of the tribals at all as it seemed like an attempt to boost tribal tourism, and even though many activists, academicians and researchers are of the view that this hasty decision should be retracted, they are not able to hold ground and had to give in to the policies and are now bearing witness to the decimation of the general tribal population. Eventually, this will take a turn for the worse as the members of these PVTG's are already struggling with alcohol abuse, drug addictions, negative acculturation, and lack of proper waste disposal. Though tourism and development are important to our economy and country, protecting the tribes and indigenous who are also the people of this country should be equally if not more than important.

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Protecting the tribes and indigenous is as important as tourism and development. They are also the people of this country.

# Government Policies

## For Tribal Upliftment



Throughout tribal history, tribal life has been closely linked to the forest and natural environment, and their culture, custom, and tradition have had a reliance on the forest for their livelihood. As defined by the Google search engine, a tribe consists of members of a traditional society, people that share a common heritage, culture, or dialect with their families, employers, or community members. It seems that government policies often aim to deny them access to the forest, which is tantamount to preventing them from becoming self-sufficient. Even though the Forest Rights Act 2006 made provisions for providing tribal members with access to forests and forest products.

Three different theories about how tribal development was handled by the British government are Isolationist theory, Assimilation theory, and Integration theory. For the first time, policymakers in India were able to notice forestry interest back in 1806 by reserving teak forests in Malabar during the pre-British period.

To control deforestation and other forest matters, the Indian Forest Act of 1865 and the Indian Forest Act of 1878 were enacted. Tribal people rebelled and the Forest Department received no cooperation from them. To effectively control tribal lands and to maintain tribal culture and life from outside aggressors and explorers, they also employed an isolation or segregation approach.

### **Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**

The tribal population is declining in some tribal communities. As part of the comprehensive and general partner-economic development of PVTG, housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, livestock, link road construction, and non-traditional energy sources for lighting, social security, and other inventions are taken for comprehensive development. The Indian government has identified 75 particularly vulnerable tribal communities (PVTGs) in 18 states and 1 union territory. Besides having a low health index, these tribal communities lack adequate educational and economic advancement. Among the most vulnerable PVTGs, livelihood, health, nutrition, economics, and education all need urgent protection and improvement.

### **Assistance to voluntary organizations working to improve the wellbeing of STs**

To combat the lack of administration in tribal regions in terms of education, health, drinking water facilities, agro-horticultural productivity, social security, etc., the scheme aims to bring the reach of government schemes to beneficiaries. Through the scheme, financial assistance is provided to all innovative activities which directly contribute to the socio-economic development or creation of livelihoods for scheduled tribes.





### **Tribal Products/Produce Development & Marketing Support**

The purpose of the initiative is to give institutional support to scheduled tribes' products and to promote the activities that are necessary to generate their livelihoods. The objectives are addressed through specific measures such as (1) market intervention; (2) training and skill up-gradation of ethnic crafters, minor forest produce (MFP) gatherers, etc.; (3) R&D/IPR activities; and (4) setting up supply chain infrastructure.

### **Scheme of Centers of Excellence**

Researchers working on tribal development in universities and acclaimed institutions, as well as NGOs and Registered Professional Organizations, as part of the scheme, are supported. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides funding to research institutes and organizations for short-term research projects among tribal communities.

### **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)**

Scheduled Tribes (ST) students from remote regions of India are enrolled in EMRS to not only enhance their educational opportunities but also to prepare them to compete in the employment market with non-STs. In addition to the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, and the Kendriya Vidyalayas, the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for ST students is also a prominent institution working towards imparting education to tribes and indigenous.

### **Vocational Training in Tribal Areas**

Financial grants are provided to organize vocational training in recognized institutes or Vocational Training Centres following regularly revised norms from time to time.

Tribal communities lack awareness of strategies and programs provided to them for sustainable development, which can only be achieved by promoting literacy among tribals. The governmental policy should not only focus on tribal development but also sustainable development of tribes with their rich culture, customs, traditions, and language, as tribal identity lies with their distinct culture and traditions which they have inherited from their ancestors. There is no meaning of development if it's at the cost of losing the real identity of scheduled tribes.

**Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRI)**  
 Through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Indian government provides technical support as well as revisions to financial norms and identified interventions for Tribal Research Institutes (TRI). TRI focuses on its core responsibilities as a knowledge and research institution, focusing on the development of tribal communities, the conservation of Native Indian history, and appropriate legislation for the country.

-Sohini Das  
 Image courtesy: Google