

Volume 05 | May 2022

# TRIBAL NOISE

Sustainability|Forest|Culture|Art

## A Land That The British Couldn't Rule

The Warriors Of  
Siringsia

## Lockdown

When Mother Nature  
Decided To Take A Break.

## Mamita

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A Way To Explore  
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[tribalconnect.org.in](http://tribalconnect.org.in)

# 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 up-tenment 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.





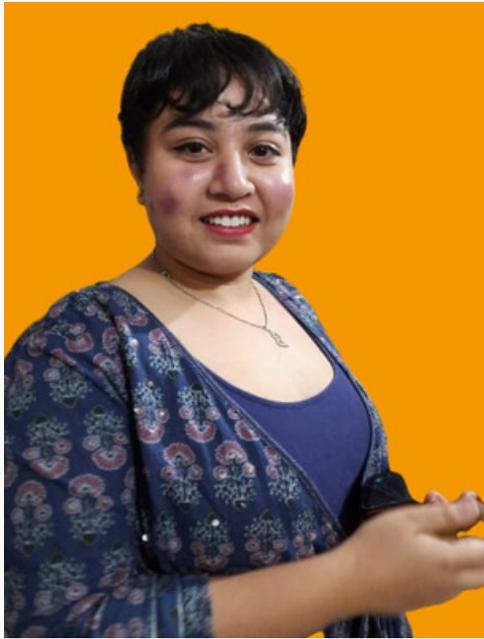
## M J Amrithalaxmi

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.

## Vinisha Kedia

A teacher by profession & found my passion with tribal connect. I am Vinisha Kedia, a content creator who believes that every word is a story by someone. I always wanted to work for a NGO and tribal connect is a perfect platform where my emotions flow on paper in the form of words and reach a bigger audience. I believe every opportunity is a ladder towards reaching our final goal. I am moving towards it with tribal connect.



## Bhashwati Deb Barma



Hello e-readers, I am Bhashwati Deb Barma, a physiotherapist by profession. I persuaded my degree from M.S.Ramaiah Medical College, Bengaluru.

I hail from Tripura which is in the North-Eastern Part of India. I came across the Tribal Connect platform through LinkedIn. I got stuck with the tribal issues the organization deal with, through its website.

I strongly believe, that with this platform, I will be able to generate much awareness among the Non-Tribal population regarding the value and be part of contribution, the tribal People offers to the society.

## Manisha Sinha

I am Manisha Sinha, a 22 years old girl doing masters in economics. Connect writing is always one of my strong point. I wanted to join with an institution which always helps people in need. When I was searching for this opportunity I came across with Tribal Connects and their work. This really made me attracted to work with this organization. Along with tribal connect team I strongly believe that many people can know more about tribal communities through my writings.



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# LOCKDOWN – WHEN MOTHER NATURE DECIDED TO TAKE A BREAK.

The word quarantine comes from the Italian word “Quaranta Giorni” which means just 40 days. During the initial practices of quarantine, ships were isolated for forty days before entering the cities to prevent any spread of diseases. But the year 2020, which got written in history (not for all the good reasons), extended the span of quarantine.

Oxford says, ‘quarantine is a state, period, or place of isolation in which people or animals that have arrived from elsewhere or been exposed to the infectious or contagious disease are placed’. The outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, that caused COVID-19 got everyone scared and confused placed everyone in quarantine except the other species.

Even the rich, who usually have access to better facilities, were at risk of contracting the disease until they acquired complete isolation. So, the wise governments of almost 90 countries, timely announced the entire nation to lock themselves inside their house. We’ve lived through the period when we were unsure of what was happening around us. But as the saying goes “every dark cloud has a silver lining” so let’s see what lockdown has given the world.

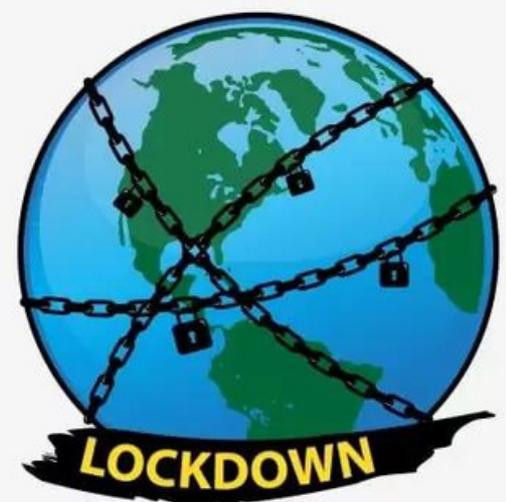
We know covid was distressing and horrific to humans, however for an entity lockdown was a recuperative period – a much needed and long due from us.

If you say it was the survivors, I’d say no. It’s the nature/ environment/ mother earth

The covid-19 was abrupt and made us aware of all the things we never believed were even possible. Closing the entire world for approximately 3 months was unimaginable. People had to live locked in their houses, similar to the house arrests parents impose upon their children when they make grave mistakes. And like many, we believed it was a punishment for our own misdeeds.

Well it finally gave our precious mother nature a break from smoke cancerous greenhouse gases, noise etc., and environmental activists fighting to preserve nature also had taken a breath of spare. As a result, the quality of air has improved during the lockdown period, which is attested by the researches. Due to controlled or almost no mobility of transport, a lot of positive changes could be seen in the atmosphere. Major cities in India have reported lower levels of gas emissions like carbon-dioxide, nitrogen, sulfur, etc in the atmospheric air due to reduced transportation and industrial activities during this period.

Pollution levels in many metro cities especially Delhi had also decreased by a significant amount. Not only this, certain reports also suggested that the water quality of lakes and rivers had also improved due to the reduction of industrial waste and no tourism.



The best instances of improvement were seen in the major rivers of India like the Ganga and the Yamuna. With a lot of industries getting shut down during and after lockdown a huge amount of toxic waste was saved from being dumped in these rivers. Also due to travel bans, the pollution caused by the huge tourism sector was also reduced in these otherwise remarkable holy waters.

As far as the ozone layer is concerned, yes, we are happy that it repaired itself, giving us a major sigh of relief. Now we can feel safer that we are protected from the harmful UV rays but rest assured the repair was not an effect of the lockdown said a report from the atmosphere monitoring agency. Still, the good news remains that we are all living in a better world post-COVID (ignoring all the many not-so-good things).

Now let's move on to how some humans took advantage of the lockdown.

Had it not been for this situation we would have never really understood the importance of a healthy lifestyle. We used to take our health for granted before the lockdown. Consuming alcohol, eating junk and unhealthy food, and lousy "no time to work out" lifestyle would've killed us all faster. During the pandemic, we found and understood that people with lower immunity had higher chances of contracting many diseases including corona. As an effect of this, people learned to discipline their lifestyles. They had time to invest in themselves. No means parties, no access to alcohol or outside food almost sent our bodies back to factory settings to some extent. Everyone became more aware of how they can spend time positively looking after themselves and rejuvenating their souls too. Earlier people were afraid of losing jobs and of trying activities that pleased them more than their jobs. Now having lived a few months of uncertainty, people are stronger than before. Many have figured time management skills where they are making enough time to do what pleases them. Relationships were taken for granted too, but the fear of losing loved ones brought people closer. Priorities changed, life detoxed, health resumed (in people who exercised and followed healthy diet), air purified and most importantly industries and corporates are strategizing to incorporate "work from home" into the attendance.

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"Life seems sometimes like nothing more than a series of losses, from beginning to end. That's the given. How you respond to those losses, what you make of what's left, that's the part you have to make up as you go."- KATHARINE WEBER

What happened during the pandemic reminded us of how powerless we are in front of our colossal universe. We need to learn from our mistakes and work towards making the environment and the world, a fitter and much better place for us and also for the generations to come. Let's learn to see the world as Anne Frank said, "I don't think of all the misery, but of all the beauty that remains". I believe that the lockdown was the much-needed oxygen mask that helped us breathe clean air. It opened our minds and helped us to listen to all the melodious sounds of nature and reunited us with our lost souls.

-Vinisha

# A LAND THAT THE BRITISH COULDN'T RULE!!!!

## THE WARRIORS OF SIRINGSIA



**Hello readers,**

This article is going to be a little different, as we will be going back in time when the brits were taking control over the nation, BHARAT. But for now, I'd love to know from your point of view who is a warrior, who do you think is a hero?

The one who is fighting at the borders and keeping their country safe or a person who is taking care of his/her family by defeating day-to-day challenges?

I believe they both are warriors as they fight their battles. Just like a person taking care of his/her family, the person on borders keeps his family, and the country safe. With that, I would like to start **"THE WARRIORS OF SIRINGSIA."**

Kolhan, a region that consisted of three districts west singhbhum, east singhbhum, and seraikella-kharasawan, is well known by the name Jharkhand nowadays. Just like many other ethnic groups kolhan had HO ethnic group. HO people are an Austro-Asiatic Munda ethnic group of India. It is told that they arrived on the coast of Orissa from southeast Asia about 4000-5000 years ago. As we know, during 1800 Britishers wanted to take over our nation and somewhat they succeeded, after all, they ruled us for 200 years. However, an interesting fact you might not know, is..... I shall tell you at the end. The 20 years, between 1820 -1837, were quite challenging for the kolhan region and the ethnic groups. Wars were waged by the British army, to occupy the land and rule the people of kolhan just like they did in other parts of the country. But what they didn't know was, kolhan had a warrior too.

Poto ho, a young man who was born in the Jagannath Pur block rebelled against the British raj throughout his life. In the year 1831-32, a battle was fought which is now known as the 'Kol uprising'. In the year 1837 Poto ho along with his army fought a battle against the British army in siringsia valley and bhagabilla valley to protect his land and they superseded. But as it was war, 26 HO fighters were martyred. After these many years of war, the 'Kol uprising', Kolhan was declared the "Kol state" in 1837. In January 1838, Poto ho along with Budai Ho and Nara ho were ensnared, and in the following month Boro Ho and Pandua Ho were hung in siringsia valley for waging war. It is because of their bravery and courage, Kolhan stands as the region that was never ruled by any of the rulers be it Marathas, Mughals, or Britishers.

Kolhan is a region that has been free and independent!

At present times, when the people of Jharkhand pass from the valley they bows and plat leaves to give tribute to all the warriors who stood and fought for their land and family. Because of them, we Kol people can proudly say we were never ruled by the English people.

Recently, I visited my hometown which is essentially in Jharkhand in the district of west singbhum. While I was there, I visited both of the valleys: the siringsia valley and the bhagabilla valley and did the tribute ritual. I was very curious and asked my parents "why do we do that? What is the significance of plating leaves while we cross the valley?" they softly said "**hum humare veer jawano ko naman karte hai, inhone apni bhoomi ke liye ladai kiya aur uss bhoomi ko aj hum apni kehlate hai**" - "we bow for our soldiers, they fought for their land and now we call that land ours." After hearing this I don't know why but I felt so fortunate from within, just to know the fact they were the people who made our land liberated and self-standing from everyone and I belong to that land.

For ethnic people of Kolhan, they were, they are and they'll be our warriors. I am so grateful to them for keeping the family safe and secure.

-Vinisha

## Titbits:

Kolhan was never occupied by the British or Mughals or Marathis

# A QUALITATIVE DISCUSSION OF PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUP OF TAMIL NADU

Overview Primitive qualities, peculiar culture, geographical isolation, aversion toward engagement with the general public, and backwardness are all common characteristics of tribal cultures. Along with these, tribes have unique characteristics such as reliance on hunting and gathering for sustenance, pre-agriculture technologies, zero or negative population growth and extremely low literacy.

According to the dictionary, the 'tribe' is "a group of people in a primitive or barbarous stage of development, acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding them as having a common ancestor". Tamil Nadu can be broadly classified into three geographical regions namely, the Eastern coast line region, central plain area and North and west mountains regions where the majority of tribal people are living.

Tamil Nadu has 38 tribes and sub-tribes, according to the Tamil Nadu forest department's website. Six tribal communities have been classified as Primitive Tribal Communities: Toda, Kota, Kurumbas, Irulur, Paniyan, and Kattunayakan. According to the 2011 census, Tamil Nadu has a tribal population of 7,94,697 people. Tribes of Tamil Nadu are mainly found in the district of Nilgiris.

The names of the tribes in Tamil Nadu are Adiyar, Arandan, Eravallan, Kadar, Mannan, Mudugar, Korata etc.

Major types of tribal communities are as follows.

- 1)**TODA**- The males of this tribe are milking buffaloes and staring at them. These folks do not worship any gods and have a cosmic consciousness. They are primarily found in the Nilgiris region.
- 2)**BADAGA**- They are from the backward class and are not tribal. Badaga was a farming village that lived on the Nilgiri district's higher plateau. They also cultivated tea and grew potatoes, and they have a rich oral heritage of folk tales, songs, and poetry. They are part of the Hindu religion's Shiva sect. They speak a mixture of Tamil and Kannada languages.



3)**KOTA**- The Kota tribe is found in the Nilgiri Hills' Tirugchigadi region. They are mainly known for manufacturing handicrafts. They are musicians who perform at Badaa funerals and are famed for their folk dances. Their population is very small and live in huts. In order to retain his social status, Kota uses complex tattoos.

4)**KURUMBAS**- They were primarily engaged in hunting and gathering for their living but gradually shifted to cultivating. They are notorious for their witchcraft and black magic. They are the only caste in the state who speak a unique language known as kurumbas.

5)**IRULA**- They live in the Nilgiri Hills' lower slopes and forests. They are known mainly for snake catching. They are the second largest tribe after the Badagas, and their personalities are comparable to the Kurumbas. They make honey, fruits, herbs, roots, gums, and colours, among other things.

6)**PALIYAN**- They are communities that harvest food. They are engaged in harvesting in wetland. The Paliyan tribe is thought to be from the Palani Hills. Madurai, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Tirunelveli, and Coimbatore are among the districts where they can be found. Paliyan tribes have advanced further than our modern civilization.

In recent news, Balaji of the Thiruporur Tribals Association urged the state government to increase the funding for tribal houses from 3lakh to 4.5 lakh. According to The New Indian Express, Tribals near Tamil Nadu's Anamalai Tiger Reserve get land deeds. Electricity Minister V Senthil Balaji distributed pattas for 1.5 cent to the families on 7/11/2021. According to The Hindu, Tribal people and other forest dwellers living in Bargur hills in Anthiyur Union have urged the State government to ensure their traditional rights are protected, before the creation of a new tiger reserve in the Erode Forest Division. The Health Ministry provides counseling services to the tribals that access the primary health centres.

According to The New Indian Express, tribal women in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris have formed a cooperative organisation to market forest commodities. To market their forest products, a group of tribal women from the Kattunayakan community established their own small cooperation unit at Gudalur in the Nilgiris area.

-Manisha



## Titbits:

Apple has been carbon neutral since 2020 and plans to have net zero Carbon impact by 2030.

# A HELPING HAND

## Ministry of Tribal Affairs

### Overview

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is introducing numerous schemes every year to encourage the growth of the tribal people and the environment around them. Many individuals, as well as communities, have embraced these schemes to grow and make a better future. The schemes granted by the ministry for the year 2022-2023, that have been enlisted in this article can be your guiding light too.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is a government body that provides financial assistance to different state governments and union territories. The state governments work towards the implementation of the grants given to them by the ministry, in such a manner as to develop the economic and social conditions of the tribal people. The tribal people make up 8% of the total population of India. Tribal people are vulnerable to many health diseases prevalent in the tribal regions due to the lack of proper facilities. Problems like poverty, illiteracy, and low life expectancy are also hindering the growth of the tribes. Numerous schemes are introduced and implemented by the ministry to improve the living conditions of the tribals. These schemes are directed towards the upliftment and development of the tribal people socially and economically.

To eradicate many evils that are present in the tribal areas, the youth as well as other members of the tribes need to be educated so that they can improve their own living conditions and also help in developing their surroundings. The scholarship schemes provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs aid in reaching this goal. They empower the students to work towards a brighter future and an improved standard of living. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs states that around 30 lakh students are given financial assistance under these schemes through a direct mode of transfer.

The following scholarships are directed towards different age groups meeting the needs of many current and prospective students.

### 1. Pre Metric Scholarship Scheme

The Pre Metric Scholarship scheme is funded by the central government but is implemented by individual state governments as well as union territories.

#### Terms of Scholarship

- Students of the 9th-10th standard can apply for this scheme.
- Parental income from all sources should not transcend Rs 2.50 lakhs per annum.
- For Day scholars an amount of Rs 225 per month and for hostellers, an amount of Rs 525 per month will be granted for a period of ten months in a year.



### Titbits:

MICROSOFT HAS PLEDGED TO STAY CARBON NEGATIVE, WATER POSITIVE, AND ZERO WASTE COMPANY TILL 2030. [ LET'S CHEER FOR THEM ]

## 2. Post Metric Scholarship Scheme

This scheme is available to students who have completed matriculation or class X. Eligible students can apply through various online portals like the state portal or the national scholarship portal.

### Terms of Scholarship

- This scheme benefits students pursuing any recognised course from the listed group of institutions.
- Parental income from all sources should not exceed Rs 2.50 lakhs per annum.
- Compulsory fees charged by the institutions will be paid up to the limit allotted by the government and then the maintenance amount will be paid from Rs 230 to Rs 1200 depending upon the course taken.

## 3. National Scholarship Scheme

The National Scholarship Scheme is a top-class scheme for the higher education of the Scheduled Tribes (ST). This scheme is funded and implemented by the central government. Students pursuing higher education from any of the 246 top institutes recognized by the government can avail this scheme. Institutes like IITs, IIMs, IITs, and AIIMs are also recognized for this scheme.

### Terms of Scholarship

- This scholarship is given to 1000 merit students every year based on their marks in class XII.
- Family income from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per year.
- A scholarship is given for the year-long expenses of the entire course.
- Living expenses, tuition fees, and allowances for books and a computer are also included in this scheme.

## 4. National Fellowship Scheme For Higher Education of ST Students:

This Central sponsored scheme provides fellowship to ST students pursuing higher education such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The scholarship is given through the medium of bank smart cards to eligible students.

### Terms of Scholarship

- Preference is given to girls, Divyangans and PVTGs.
- Fellowship is given for M.Phil at Rs 25000 per month and for Ph.D. at Rs 28000 per month.
- Every year a scholarship of 750 new students is granted.
- The scholarship covers contingency expenses, any departmental expenses, and also HRA allowances.

## 5. National Overseas Scholarship:

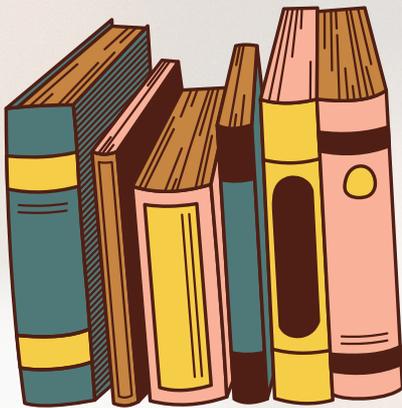
This scholarship is provided to the students who want to pursue Post Graduation, Ph.D., Post Doctoral studies abroad. The selection of students is done completely based on merit.

### Terms of Scholarship

- There is a total of 20 awards given out of which 17 are given to ST students and 3 to PVTGs students.
- Parental income should not exceed Rs 6 lakhs per annum.
- The scholarship amount is disbursed through the Ministry of External Affairs which in turn is reimbursed through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The scholarship includes tuition fee, Annual Maintenance allowance, Contingency expenses, Visa Fee, Medical Insurance, Cost of Air journey, and Incidental Journey expenses.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has started many IT services to reach out to as many of the tribes as possible through the medium of internet. There are many more schemes for NGOs and other voluntary organizations as well so that they can work for the development of the tribal community. To know more about various schemes and initiatives by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, <https://tribal.nic.in/> can be visited.

Metaphorically speaking, there is a broken road between the urban and tribal areas that is stopping us from reaching our highest potential. The construction work has started and has made a positive impact on many lives but yet there is a long path to be built. We hope and believe that the efforts made by all individuals, willing to work towards a brighter future and also the efforts by the government, will lead to a glorious tomorrow.



## Titbits:

WE ALL KNOW GOOGLE IS A PIONEER AND HIGH ACHIEVER. DO YOU KNOW THEY ARE THE FIRST TO POWER THEMSELVES THROUGHOUT A YEAR USING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES? AND THEY ARE PLANNING SOMETHING REALLY BIG!!!

# WHAT GOOGLE, APPLE, AMAZON & MICROSOFT HAVE DONE TO THE ENVIRONMENT?



Everybody has time and again heard and learned something about sustainable development. But, what does it actually mean and how do we achieve our sustainable goals is something that needs more information, attention, and knowledge.

The idea that human beings need to sustain themselves by meeting their basic needs while also making sure that the future generations are able to meet theirs

is referred to as sustainable development. It is the way of organizing the society that it can exist in the foreseeable future without compromising of the availability of resources for the generations to come.

Preserving the nature and our natural resources whilst maintaining a social and economic balance is easier said than done, and this gets clear if you see just the last two decades and how our greed of maintaining our lifestyle has taken its toll on mother earth as the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG's) has led to a decline in the air quality around the globe and gave us devastating climate changes. However, what would be the actual objectives? These can be categorized in the following way which seems to be the strongest 3 pillars of sustainability

- Economic growth: Where the economy expands in the right direction.
- Protecting the environment: Where we work towards, not just protecting and enhancing the environment, but also minimizing pollution and waste.
- Social Inclusion: Where we strive for providing adequate housing for future generations and create strong and vibrant communities.

Every year we use 40% more resources that we can put back and this demands the answer to how the long term effects of all our misdoings can be reversed, because sustainability is not just about the environment but is also about the overall health of our society and ensuring that no people or areas of life suffer due to indifferent behaviour towards certain communities or due to environmental legislation.

Though its wise to examine the issues and causes arriving at a solution is always the key to a better future. Giant organizations are aware of this and have taken steps to the preservation of the environment. Many big organizations feel strongly about their responsibility towards the environment and are working towards the global goals of not just reducing their whole carbon footprint but also venture into creating clean energy as well.

So, who comes to mind when we talk about the biggest tech companies? We will all agree that Apple, Google, Meta, Microsoft and Amazon rule the space with their future-forward thing in their technologies but, a comprehensive analysis will reveal that they are actually thinking about the future in all its entirety. So, let's dive in what are they actually planning and how far have they in fact come.

Apple towards restoring biodiversity - Recycling is not just a campaign but a way of life for this giant and they have already achieved its goal of doing its operations through 100% renewable energy and they plan to shift on clean energy by 2030. They have also been carbon neutral since 2020 and with their low carbon designs that are already rolled out in the market, they plan to have a net zero carbon impact by 2030 which will help restore biodiversity. For this, Apple has established a \$200 million Apple Restore Fund where they aim to remove over 1M metric tons of carbon/year and have also issued \$4.7 billion in green bonds for driving investments for reducing the overall global emissions.

Microsoft- Since 2012, Microsoft has been carbon neutral and has committed to being carbon negative, water positive and a zero-waste company till 2030 with its sustainable business practices and cloud-enabled technologies. With the allocation of \$100 million to Breakthrough Energy's Catalyst initiative and \$471 million to Climate Innovation Fund, Microsoft is not just reaching their goals as a company but are also encouraging other companies and the world to move from climate pledges to climate progress and make net-zero the new normal.

Google powers itself- Achieving their goal of being carbon-neutral in 2007, in just a decade more, Google was the first to attain 100% of its annual electricity consumption through renewable energy sources by creating efficient data centres, sustainable workplaces and building better devices and services and by 2030 they hope to operate on 24x7 on carbon-free energy everywhere for which they have spurred over \$7 billion worldwide.

Meta - Meta has always been an inspiring force for the world and through its platforms they have enabled more than 3.5 million users to donate around \$130 million to combat climate change and protect the environment and as they are also as equal-opportunity company like all the others that we have talked about, they have pledged more than \$1 billion to certified diverse suppliers annually and have supplied over \$40 million in grant funding to minority businesses impacted due to unforeseen adversities. It took them just 9 years to reach their goal of sourcing 100% renewable energy for all of its operations and by 2020 they had over 2.8 gigawatts of wind and solar projects online.

Amazon - Amazon is on its path to powering its wholesome operations with 100% renewable energy by 2025 and have committed to be net-zero carbon by 2040 for which they have ordered over 100,000 fully-electric delivery vehicles and are simultaneously planning to invest around \$100 million in reforestation projects around the world. They have also given birth to the Climate Pledge Fund which is a \$2 billion fund to back visionary and future-forward companies which can facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Global goals are not just set for companies and leaders like these but it is even the smallest of efforts that count and that is what will lead us into a better future where we can all live in harmony. So, what are we waiting for? If they care, why can't we?

-Lakshya Bhalla

# MAMITA

## Indigenous Tribal Dance

-Bhashwati Deb Barma

Tripura one of the seven sisters of North-East India is a hilly state which is known for its culture and heritage. This kingly state has its own uniqueness that reflects in its arts, cuisines, folklores, pieces of music, etc.

The Indigenous tribe of the state is known as Tiprasa / Twipra and this Tripuri Community speaks the Kokborok language. The folklores of the state is as Interesting as its eritage. The Indigenous people have a very strong root and they do abide by that. There are usually different forms of dancing that exist in the tribal population globally. Similarly, the Tripuri community also possesses various forms of dancing, of which 'Hojagiri' dance has gained popularity many years back and represented Tripura at Rajpath Delhi during the Republic day Parade.

This article is about a little underrated form of dance of Tripuri people which invigorated a strong impact and formed a deep connection with the Indigenous community of the state. This form of dancing is one of the toughest forms of dancing and also one of the reasons for not getting much recognition to date.

This dance is known as Mamita dance.

'Mamita' is a compound word where 'Mami' refers to the Jhum cultivation and 'Kwtal' means new.

Jhum cultivation is also called shifting cultivation, practiced in the hilly region of the North East region of India by the Tribal people.

There are 3 types of 'Mami' yielded:

'Mami hangar', the black rice, 'Mami Chaprang' and 'Mami Watlog'. The harvesting time of 'Mami' is during October month. So the people become very busy from the starting of September month till the crop is harvested. The story behind this traditional dance is very interesting.

After harvesting the Indigenous people celebrate making rice beer with the new rice yielded, also called (Chuak), they worship 'Srijomdu' and 'Srijodu', the Gods of the Tripuri tribe.

The pattern of the festival is very different yet interesting.

The day before 'Mamita', people gather and offer 'Paan' (betel-leaf) to the Priest, also called 'Ochai', and request him to worship the Gods. The 'Ochai' shows much demand in the beginning and starts making excuses and tells the people to request other priests as he could not accept their offerings. If he agrees, the next day he comes and performs the rituals.

Now the quirky part is the whole incident is actually made to happen through folk songs, from the people asking the 'Ochai' to the end of the festival. The rituals take place in any one house where all the people of that particular village gather and celebrate 'Mamita.' The owner of the house is known as 'Nokphang.' The friends of the 'Nokphang' demands to worship two other Gods but the choice is up to the owner of the house. They make a situation like there is

something at the door or something fell near the door and that could lead to some bad omen and for that they propose the owner to worship 'Sukundrai' and 'Mukundrai' (other two Gods of the tribe) to overcome the bad omen.

Later, the owner's friends relish the offerings.

'Rajabo kaio osani mwta  
Kangal Mamita rio  
Rajabo tharo misip mothona  
Kangal Tok-Takhum tharo.'

During the October month, the king who is rich and wealthy celebrates Durga whereas, the poor people celebrate 'Mamita' because they cannot afford it economically.

The king sacrifices buffalo to Mother Durga whereas, the poor tribal people sacrifice hens or ducks to the Gods.

The tribal people is normally dependent on the shifting cultivation and the major yielded crops are rice, cotton, and sesame. The whole script or the whole pattern of this is performed through folk songs and this is the specialty of 'Mamita.'

The songs usually depend on the situation like pre- puja people cleaning the area so the song is allocated to that part and so on.

Similarly, everything follows till the end of the festival, people pray that this should continue every year. They bid farewell to the festival happily with 'Dhol', 'Flute' which is also called 'Shumwi', 'Sharinda', 'Chomphreng' (string instruments.)

In the end, when the savoring part comes, everyone enjoys the meal together. Meanwhile, the young ones (through their songs) ask for the rice beer indirectly that was kept at the corner. The elders then offer them to drink the rice beer.

'Mamita dance' is not well synchronized with the steps and the song appears to be very fast and requires extreme co-contraction of the leg muscles. For this reason, whenever people want to perform 'Mamita dance', they practice the choreography part but they avoid proper rehearsal because of extreme muscle work, people tend to lose balance and suffer from pain but the dance is really worth watching and the beats of the song are so wonderfully made that would definitely leave anyone watching, spellbound. People from outside Tripura can enjoy 'Mamita' as an audience or even can take part in the festival just like thousand of people participates and enjoy the 'Hornbill' festival of Nagaland.

Tripura tribal folk music college people can learn. Every tribal community has its own culture and does play a significant role in society. The way each one in the village takes part in 'Mamita', celebrating the new rice festival shows their unity and how gracefully they enjoy 'Mamita' together.

If anyone willing to learn 'Mamita dance' can acquire the course from Tripura Tribal Folk Music College, Tripura. This course allows anyone willing to learn 'Mamita' and participate too, in any of the state programs.

Approaches have been initiated to make the 'Mamita dance' recognized globally.



## Titbits:

AMAZON'S AMAZING INITIATIVES INCLUDE USING ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND INVESTING IN REFORESTATION PROJECTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL OF BECOMING CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2040. [LONG WAY TO GO CHAMP!!]

# HOW TRIBALS ARE MAKING INTO THE WORLD WITH THEIR UNIQUE PRODUCTS AND WITH THEIR VALUES

## **Tribal making into the innovative world with their unique products:**

What makes the tribes unique? The 'adi' factor is crucial about them, as the name of the event suggests. Primal truths, eternal principles, and a natural simplicity guide their way of life. The tribes' brilliance stems from the fact that they have managed to preserve primal talents and natural simplicity. India's tribes produce a diverse assortment of handicrafts. Hand-woven cotton, wool, and silk fabrics, as well as woodcrafts, metal craft, terracotta, beadwork, masques, and other artefacts, are among them. They also create captivating artwork. True, these arts and crafts were not developed for the market by the tribes. They created these for their own personal use. The tribes, like the rest of us, now require currency for a variety of reasons. As a result, it is critical that their innate abilities be used to increase their sources of revenue. As a result, the government is working to encourage interaction between tribal artist and mainstream designers from reputable design firms. The plan is to broaden the product line and introduce new designs to their work. The combination of these two can produce marketable art and handicraft products for the high-end worldwide market. Single bell-metal pieces made by the late Jaideo Baghel of Kondagaon, Bastar, sold for up to five lakhs rupees! This just emphasises the reality that on the one hand skills exist in India's tribal areas and on the other hand, high-end demand exists in our cities and in the international market. With the 'Go Tribal' campaign, the ministries of commerce and tribal affairs have set a goal for every home in India to have at least one tribal product within the next three years. To sell the products overseas, the government is looking for partnerships with Walmart and Amazon. The project would promote not only handicrafts, but also lesser-known tribal projects such as herbal medicines, beverages, honey, and natural oils and extracts. The marketing arm of the tribal affairs ministry is the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) which will control the quality of the product.

## **Tribals making their way into commercial industry:**

For years, members of kattunayakan tribe in Kerala have been harvesting and distributing wild honey. Beekeeping has also been a source of income for tribals in Orissa's Koraput region. They produce natural honey which is in high demand both nationally and overseas. According to a report by Agriculture Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) 38, 177.08 metric tonnes of honey, worth 705.87 crores was exported in 2015-2016. According to many business articles, turning problems into opportunities, there is a rise in entrepreneurship across tribal groups of India. By connecting agriculture and forest produce with markets using technology, creation of self-help groups, empowering women, and creating self-sustainable enterprises, a number of tribal entrepreneurs are changing the face of tribal India.



# TRIBAL TOURISM

## A Way To Explore New Worlds

The word tourism brings to mind images of serene mountains and calm lakes and beautiful sceneries. People all over the world go to different tourist destinations to unwind and relax and experience new things that they don't do in their daily lives. When people travel they expect something in return. They are looking for experiences that enlighten them, expose them to new cultures, cuisines, meeting new people and the feeling of victory that reflects surviving even the unknown. Tourism can be made more captivating by visiting different tribes and exploring their rich cultures. Tribal tourism involves meeting new tribes and staying with them to get hands on experience of their humble daily routines and traditions. Tribal tourism has gained a lot of popularity in the recent times all across the world.

Earlier the indigenous tribes were discriminated and left behind in the race to move forward which caused economic backwardness for them. Now the governments have planned to uplift these tribes by bringing tourists to their homes to provide financial independence to them. There are many agencies and organisations that accommodate tribal tourism in India. Different tourism enterprises such as Grassroutes, India city Walks, Bishnoi village Safari, Holiday Scouts, etc include tribal tourism as a part of their tourist destinations. Many states in India have a large population of tribal people. States like Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Northeast India are famous for tribal tourism. The government of Uttar Pradesh has also initiated tribal tourism in an effort to make up for the financial growth it is unable to yield for these tribes. The Tharu tribes of the terai regions in UP offer tourists to stay in the natural habitats and huts made from grass from the forests. Tribes like Bhils, Gonds, Katkaris, Warlis are looking to expand financially by agreeing to tribal tourism. People are pouncing on the chances of meeting the various tribes of different regions to explore new lifestyles. The tribes are guided by the government on their exposure with the urban people. They are trained to behave and interact appropriately with the tourists visiting their villages. They are also taught the common languages to communicate with the visitors effectively. The tribes have opened their houses to all those who really want to learn new cultures and have meaningful experiences. Tourists can stay with them and learn the ways in which they do their regular chores. Tribes preserve nature and mostly depend on the environment for their needs. The indigenous people extract from nature what is needed but do not destroy it in return. Certain tribes are matriarchal and depend on women for the bigger roles in life. The women also inherit many property rights in these tribes. The morals and principals of these tribes vary a lot from the present patriarchal system of the modern societies. All these values and much more can be learnt from the indigenous tribes and can be established in our urban lives.

The effects of tribal tourism are not all good. There are ways in which the tribes and getting exploited rather than benefiting from this new arrangement. People are rarely interested in living with them and exploring the tribal lifestyle. They are rather keen on only clicking pictures and making fun of the tribals if things do go smoothly for them. Issues such as littering of the forest is also a major disappointment. The tourist also expect the people to be dressed as traditionally as possible so as to get unique pictures with the tribals.

So, the tribals are forced be decked up all the time even though this is not their daily costume. Tribal people prefer living in isolation which also protects them from diseases from the cities. But, the chances of contracting diseases has also increased because of meeting many people of differenta ntionalities. There is also a possibility of the tribes losing their cultures and getting influenced by the tourists. A lot of negative impact of the tribal tourism was seen in many places across the globe. To make this an enriching experience for both the tribes and the tourists, the government as well as the tourist agencies need to take more firm steps. Strict rules need to be passed to determine the safety of the indigenuos culture and traditions. People can be made aware of the do's and don'ts of the tribes they are visiting. Tribal tourism can be a form of sustainable tourism. Sustainable refers to practices causing minimum damage to the environment and also having positive impacts for everyone, such that it can sustain in the long run. If the people want authentic experiences of tribal lives they need to put in efforts to make this interaction really fulfilling on both sides.



# PROBLEMS IN TRIBAL COMMUNITY OF INDIA

The tribal communities face many challenges and problems in their daily life.

Those problems are listed below:-

- Poverty and exploitation
- Backwardness in terms of both economics and technology.
- Disadvantages in socio-cultural nature.
- Issues with the non-tribal population.
- Illiteracy as the biggest issue
- Health and nutritional issues
- Indebtedness
- Tribals coexisting in a community with castes, sects, and religious groups.
- Tribals who have been branded as "untouchables".



## **Poverty and exploitation:-**

A poverty line is established as an income that dictates a minimal calorie intake of persons, and then estimations of all those whose income falls below this line are made. The method is known as the Head Count Ratio of Poverty and is the most widely used indicator of poverty in India. The National Institute of Rural Development found that, with the exception of Bihar, there is variety in each state when it comes to income poverty (NIRD: 1999). Bihar's many regions are all poor, although all other states have different levels of poverty across their regions.

Tribes have distinct lifestyles, cultural identities, and traditional ways of existence. They have lived in solitude for ages, far from the national mainstream. They worshipped a deity they connected with their environment and natural surroundings. Central India reflects forest, tribalism, and poverty among Indian states. Between the 1820s and the 1860s, tribal unrest erupted over Khandesh, Satpura and Nimar, Chota Nagpur, Gujarat, and Rajasthan Territory reform legislation and scheduled area restrictions were enacted after the Civil War to protect tribal land, prohibit its alienation to non-tribals, and return alienated lands.

Tribal in the Central belt of India lives in small houses made out of mud walls covered on top with baked tiles (khapsrail). Well to do among the tribals use hand made brick and wooden roof structure covered on top with home baked tiles.

### **Illiteracy as the biggest issue to the development:-**

Dropout rates among the tribal students, particularly at the secondary and senior secondary stages, are very high. Superstitions and myths play an important role in rejecting education. Formal education is not considered necessary to discharge their social obligations.

Tribals should be encouraged to use their known knowledge to meet their basic needs by recreating their forest-based livelihood. Although majority of tribes have land and cultivation is their main occupation.

### **Disadvantages in socio-cultural nature:-**

Child marriage among tribes still exists. Infanticide, homicide, sacrifice of the animals, black magic, and other harmful practices are still found among tribes. This backwardness in their livelihood is one of the major problems in tribal population.

### **Lack of proper medical and sanitary facilities and poverty:-**

The shortage of health care human resources willing, trained, and equipped to work in Scheduled Areas is a key challenge in providing public health care to tribal populations. In Scheduled Areas, there is a deficiency of doctors, nurses, technicians, and managers due to vacancies, absence, or half-heartedness.

Tribes' bad health and backwardness are primarily due to a lack of awareness. Sanitation, health, and hygiene awareness programmes, as well as information about government specific programmes for tribal communities should be encouraged.

### **Tribals coexisting in a community with castes and religious groups:-**

The caste system has become all too evident for the scheduled castes and tribes, as well as the backward castes, and their caste has tended to overwhelm the other characteristics of their identities. They cannot afford to forsake their caste identity because it is one of the few collective advantages they have because they lack inherited educational and social capital and must compete with the upper caste group.

Moreover, they continue to suffer from various discrimination. Reservation policies and other forms of protective discrimination implemented in response to political pressure are their lifeline. However, relying on this lifeline causes their caste to become the most important and, in some cases, the only aspect of their identity in the world. Laws should be enacted to stop and abolish the selling of the tribals land to other non-tribals. All the NGOs should step forward with the help of medical and sanitary facilities. The government and the NGOs could take combined effort to eliminate the problem of low wage hired labour. Schools should set up near tribal settlement to decrease the drop-outs.

~Manisha

# TRIBAL RIGHTS AND LAWS

~Bhashwathi

The word 'Tribal' refers to a certain community of people who have got their own culture, traditions, different typology, and own way of livelihood, which is quite different from the rest of the other communities.

Forest area remains the main identity of tribal people in India. A few of the main reasons for the deprivation of tribal people are poverty, malnutrition, lack of education, and unawareness of their laws and rights. They have little to no knowledge about their rights related to their territories and lands. Their ignorance is not bliss so far. The lands of the tribal people which are mostly in the forest area are being snatched away from them mostly by the money lenders, Zamindars, etc. in various projects, leading the tribal people to lose their land rights. Due to the increasing illiteracy, among the tribal people in India, their rights got pretty much limited.

In the legislative authority of the Indian constitution, there is:

- Indian parliament and central government.
- State legislatures, and a local government under which Municipality and Rural/ Gram panchayat come.
- **PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas)** Act or the 5th schedule in peninsular India and, 6 schedules in North-eastern India for the tribal people

Now talking about the rights of the Indian tribal people, things are a little tricky here because the laws for the tribals in the North-eastern part of India are a little different from the tribes residing in the rest of India.

In the North-eastern States, there is an autonomous council for the tribal people that deals with seeking justice, and fulfillment of all the necessary needs through their own traditional and customary law whereas, the rest of the Indian tribes are governed by a Provincial Governors.

Out of many Articles/Rules mentioned in The Indian Constitution, below are, a few of them listed :

## **Land Rights of Indigenous people in India**

The rights under Forest Rights Act seek security for individuals and ownership of landholding, habitation in forests, and exploitation. These rights are reserved for Scheduled Tribes and forest dwellers who are the owner of those lands for a generation. [Homepage - Nyaaya](#)

Article 14 of the Indian Constitution states that- **“The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.”** [Article 46 in The Constitution Of India 1949 \(indiankanoon.org\)](#)

Article 15 secures the citizens from every sort of discrimination by the State, on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth or any of them. [Article 46 in The Constitution Of India 1949 \(indiankanoon.org\)](#)

Article 46 of the Indian Constitution says that “The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled

Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation”. [Article 46 in The Constitution Of India 1949 \(indiankanoon.org\)](#)

Tribal people in the North-eastern part are exempted from paying Income Taxes and fall under - **Clause 25 of Article 366 of the Constitution residing in a Sixth Schedule area are exempted from paying income tax under Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act of 1961.** [Article 46 in The Constitution Of India 1949 \(indiankanoon.org\)](#)

**The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society. **Article 39 A** of the Constitution of India provides for free

legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society, to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity. [Introduction - National Legal Services Authority! \(nalsa.gov.in\)](#)

The **current situation** compelled the tribal people to come up with a demand for a separate land for them because of extreme deprivation of education, other necessary resources, social-cultural activity, etc.

To protect their land rights as well as to provide them with sufficient help few social activists, out of which few belong to the tribal community came up. There are few NGOs, that are effortlessly working for the tribal people. Kudos to them.

**Ananya Paul Dodmani**, a tribal rights activist, **Karamveer Chakra Awardee**, and the founder of Tribalconnect, has a tremendous contribution to tribal rights. She is working effortlessly and the organization has successfully managed to distribute **bio-degradable sanitary pads to 80,000+tribal women**, there are many **Projects like Annapoorna, Gyaan, etc.** The information is available on **Tribalconnect.org.in**.

- **Mrida Education and Welfare Society** – This society works for the education of the tribal or underprivileged children and also, offers holistic services for the tribal people. The information is available on **mrida.org**.
- **Social activist like Sonu Sori** – Being one of the tribal people, Sonu Sori, a survivor of an Acid attack and who spent a long time in prison with charges of being a Maoist Supporter, **fought for the land rights of tribal people** in Chhatisgarh. She continued to fight for forest and land rights of the Tribal people, **to provide justice to the Adivasi people**, and in 2018, she was awarded as **Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk**.
- **Dayami Barla** – A Journalist of **Prabhat Khabar**, her organizations **Adivasi, Moolvasi, Astitva Raksha Manch** – for **protection of tribal lands and their indigenous identity**, She was awarded **Counter Media Award for Rural Journalism in 2000, National Foundation for India Fellowship in 2004**.

To Educate or to help the tribal people in our state or the whole of India, we should approach them to know more about their issues and make them aware of their basic rights and if possible. Join hands with the nearest NGOs that work for them.