



# ASECA CHANNEL

(A monthly Journal from All India ASECA)

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## Editorial...

Celebration of festivals is continuing through out the year in different parts of the Country. The celebration signifies socio, cultural and religious importance and cohesiveness. This enables human being to consolidate mutual faith, respect and accommodation. The human bonding is cemented through participation, sharing and caring. Some are traditionally in existence from time immemorial and others have been evolved over a period of time based on the specific requirement and purpose, which are recent in origin. Society accepts some new formula and principles based on unique requirement from time to time. Gradually, which was regional in character few years back becomes pan India phenomenon over a period of time based on movement of sizable population with distinct identity from one part of the country to another. The two way assimilation of culture takes place and respective culture finds acceptance in the new places which continuously strengthen the Indian culture.

In this background, tribal festivals and cultural renaissance can also be related. Like other cultural groups, Tribals have also continued to celebrate different festivals in different parts of the country wherever they have migrated. The sense of pride and feeling of belongingness to their roots have prompted them to organize various festivals on different occasions. It is heartening to observe zeal and zest in such occasions. In the majority locality, people have not forgotten to celebrate their traditional festivals and rituals even though they are relentlessly being influenced by contemporary society's much organized celebrations and ceremonies. The little tradition is continuing to find a space for itself

in the midst of growing onslaught of organized culture and people.

The official recognition to the Tribal Festivals and celebrations is gradually being accorded. The mass participation and involvement has influenced the decision of the authority to consider the long standing demand and aspirations of people to have recognition to their respective socio cultural values and voices. It is commonly observed that administration in any State is in fact recognizes the belief and aspirations of people and in accordance with the level of indulgence; it accords its approval to such occasions and celebrations.

It is anxiously being awaited to know about the nature, size and extent of Bhanj Veer Sunaram Soren Centenary Celebration (SSCC). Though official celebration is not heard till date, it has to be organized on the strength of public motivation and participation. As has been announced earlier, this occasion should be instrumental in forging social solidarity and put in place a culture of respecting and remembering the good deeds of the forefathers. Like any other contemporary celebration of great leaders in the recent past, this celebration is also being envisaged in the same line that is to have large public participation. It is expected that about a lakh people would be assembled to commemorate this historic date and occasion. The history of remembrance and paying respect would be repeated on that day. It is an occasion to demonstrate and realize the strength of oneness and uniqueness. The sea of people on that day at Baripada will definitely bring a renewed sense of pride and privilege which is not seen in Baripada to celebrate a centenary of a great son of the soil.

It is expected that people will participate surpassing personal limitations in order to achieve a common goal that is to realize self-satisfaction and set an example to inculcate pride and sense of prestige among the generation next. Demonstration of the capacity to organize such a grand celebration in it self is a challenge and this challenge should be accepted and motivated to do something purposeful and historic. It is neither impossible nor impracticable to organize such a grand occasion when willingness of people is there and realization will set an example so that people will have the willingness in the future. Though sometimes it is feared that whether there will be participation of people

or not but this should not be the point of concern as people have always extended their support to a clarion call for the benefit and welfare of the society and this time also people's support will be there which will be unprecedented and will become unparalleled in the history of Mayurbhanj. Its impact can be visualized when a sea of people will occupy every inch of space of Baripada on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and the atmosphere would be reverberated with the renewed vigour and vitality.

Small drops accumulate to make an ocean and let's hope small participation and contribution from individual will create magic on that date and day.

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## BHANJ VEER MARANG GOMKE SUNARAM SOREN CENTENARY CELEBRATION 2017-18

### *Chronicle of Discussion among the enthusiasts and responsible persons regarding Centenary*

In continuation to the ASECA CHANNEL, January 2017 and February 2017 issues wherein the purpose, programme etc. of the Centenary celebration were published. Since then, a series of discussions are going on. In order to preserve the same as well as to disseminate widely, it has been decided to publish the same continuously so that developments from time to time are accessible to all the readers and public in general.

05/03/17: **Babulal Murmu:** I am initiating a discussion on a business model for co-operative farming for Santal community. Let's prepare a model and implement it in any of the Santal village to improve the economic condition. Scope of the discussion will be as under:

1. Formation of society
2. What is to be cultivated
3. How will be the participation of members?
4. Feasibility of model
5. Sourcing of funds
6. Marketability of the products
7. Profit sharing among the members.

05/03/17: **Er. Fumal Marndi:** Sir we can do it either ourselves or through some agency (NGO etc). Anything however must be in collaboration with Panchayat. Society formation should not be a problem when we have so many motivated members here. Crops and cultivation potential are huge. One just has to imagine. Start up Funds can be arranged from corporates. Now CSR fund is huge i.e. 2 % of profit. Getting the model running will depend on sustainability of the model and people managing it. This is just

my preliminary thoughts. Need to do some research to actually get the functional details but in principle it's a terrific idea.

01/04/17: Somnath Hansdah: All India Santals Writers' Meet (Hemel) was organised by National Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and Convenor Shri Gangadhar Hansda.

Now I like to convey about the yesterday's most important meeting with gomkey Shri PC Hembram at his office chamber at New Delhi. The road map of SSCC has been finalized, step by step. According to that road map, I like to inform all of us that, first most important step is to start contributions for SSCC, let it be in instalments or in one time. But our intention is, it should be focused on development of SSCC fund; on behalf of all members of this platform. I am very frank and clear on the concept that contribution is compulsory for each and every member of this SSCC group. Situations should not be created among us to pursue again and again in this regard.

Second step is to cover up SSCC campaigns all over Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Balasore

districts in first phase by distributions of leaflet/pamphlets and fixing of posters. Other than localities all cities and townships also to be covered.

Third step is to collect and list out the most active and faithful members from each blocks of districts, cities and townships where Santals are living.

Finally once again I like to request all of us for better cooperation and coordination in all aspects for above all the context for successful SSCC in grand way.

29/05/17: **Barial Majhi**: 1. It is not always right to blame our community Bigshot/VVIP for non-development of all Social, Political, Economic and other fields. Our society expects too much from them in a short time but putting less effort or energy and without continuous follow-up like DIKU people and their society do. Because of impatient, over expectation, improper approach we could extract less from our own Dignitaries like Diku does. We are more united, patient, energetic in social Function, Entertainment & Festivals only but less in societal issues & causes. 2. I have heard that RAJ BHAVAN has hoarding or name in OI-Chiki and seen Jharkhand villages in Tiring-Tata route in OI-Chiki script. 3. Because of freebies like Re1.00/kg Rice, MGNREGA and School Mid-day meal, our Villages have become idle and ambitionless. On returning from Chennai/Mumbai they spend only in expensive Bike, Mobile handset, Shoes and clothes. Very few boys contribute to their respective family problem. 4. Enjoyment & suffering is in the hands of individual himself. 5. God also helps only those who want to rise and puts effort and not to dormant people. 7. Sleeping lion has no share.

29/05/17:**Chaitan Soren**: Let me elaborate point wise. 1) Sir I never ever tried to blame

community bigshots/ VVIPs / Political leaders for any reason. Because I know if I were an MLA or MP I am not sure whether I could do some developmental activities for Santals. Because we the Santals are not living unitedly now. Many disparities prevail among us. For the reason have a look on some differences i. e. in case of Dikus rich becomes richer & poor also becomes rich. But in our case rich becomes poor & poor becomes poorer. Why? And how far our leaders are protected by us socially, legally & by administrative law. If they face some critical situation then who is there to protect them? Therefore, in my view firstly Santal leaders should confidently expect more from us then secondly we from them. 3) Yes sir, people are attending many Hybrid Functions. Why? Because somebody are organising this & displaying advertisements etc. so that people are attending. For other instances many people cheated by chit funds & many people convert their religion, why? Because some research based ideas are / were working effectively behind it. So I think people are not in sleeping condition at all, but are walking in wrong direction. So to bring them to mainstream, it is in our hand if we really want. But if we ignore them by simply saying that sleeping lion has no share means what? Totally concentrate / focus on individual development. Of course no doubt individual development is a basic requirement. But we should also think about collective development also. I strongly believe that individual development lasts for less time whereas collective development lasts for thousands & thousands of years. We the educated mass knows what is right or wrong. So let's start empowering other Santal brothers & sisters too & can see some miraculous changes within Santal society. 4) Sir I love India very much. I regard my Village as one Mini India for me. And my Mini India (my Village) is a poor

one. Therefore, often I think if India being regarded as a backward country then perhaps it's due to my Village. So let me develop my Mini India then automatically Big India will be developed. 5) In Jharkhand OI Chiki is limited from Tiring Border to Tatanagar. In Ranchi belt no Santals are living. And in Dumka, Deoghar, Giridihi, Dhanbad and Bokaro districts it's scarce to think about OI Chiki.

30/05/17: **P C Hembram:** Dear Chaitan babu, You have covered many vital aspects/issues relating to our social life and existence. Gradually, we are marching ahead. Many in this group are known through this group minus their inputs as they seldom respond. Majority of us also are yet to firm up their mind. You have mentioned about Hybrid Function the meaning will not be clear unless it is narrated further. Kailash babu is doing the right thing by approaching people personally. Everyone in this group should spread the message. It will create an enabling environment and positive perspective.

It was expected nomination of volunteers from each block, GPs etc. Request to expedite the same.

30/05/17:**Barial Majhi:** 1. I said we should urge our MLA, MP through our elected Sarpanch or Chairman to unitedly approach influential leaders like Modi & others. 2. I am talking about Santal Function not Hybrid. In college and University life, our Students' union organise nothing but Picnic that too for entertainment purpose only. Same situation prevails in Village, Urban & Cities too. We are not utilising the mass power.

30/05/17:**Chaitan Soren:** Respected Barial Sir , I have been following your messages since long.

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You are really a genius gentleman. Therefore, I respect you very much. Please lagge rahiye & don't let this SSCC forum in slow motion. Obviously some doubts be cleared, new arises, it's the continuous process. So, no problem at all.

Respected Hembram Sir, Good morning. 1)Sir I am in continuous touch with my GP / Block people. I hope we will attend 4th February 2018 programme with huge numbers of people with Tumdah, Tamak & Chodchudi etc. And by this evening I shall submit the list of Majhi / Naike from my GP & peripheral. I am not going to clarify for delay in submitting because I hope you understand me better. 2) Sir I used the word Hybrid in short cut form during debate session with Gentleman Mr. Barial Sir. May be I am wrong but I used it for informal social functions, entertainment & festivals like prize jom, 15 minutes football tournament & disco lagne etc. With great regret here may I say if we organise Football tournament then why for 15 minutes, that is too with drinking of full belly Handi / Parua. So why not tournament is played for 90 minutes per game with full rules & regulations. Now Disco Lagne ..... ! Therefore people saying the proverb "ଠେଣୁଢ଼େ ନଞ୍ଜୁଞ୍ଜୁ ଧଞ୍ଜୁଞ୍ଜୁ ଝଞ୍ଜୁଞ୍ଜୁ ଞଞ୍ଜୁଞ୍ଜୁ ଟଞ୍ଜୁଞ୍ଜୁ ଡଞ୍ଜୁଞ୍ଜୁ ଢଞ୍ଜୁଞ୍ଜୁ ଢଞ୍ଜୁଞ୍ଜୁ ଢଞ୍ଜୁଞ୍ଜୁ । Now among Magh, Baha, Sohray, Dasain & Sakrat etc. some are extinct or in endangered condition. But none of the villages is serious about these. If it continues like this, then I have doubt whether my grandchildren can see the Tumdah or not. In short I want to say please let's celebrate our traditional festivals in full dhum dham & feel the real taste.

{To be continued...}

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