



# ASECA CHANNEL

(A monthly Journal from All India ASECA)

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## Editorial...

Completing 50 years of existence is not a small achievement and indeed an occasion for celebration. Naturally, one has to undergo many twists and turns and ups and downs during this period. The name "Golden Jubilee" may have been given due to this very reality. Equally applicable to an individual as well as to an Institution and it is the right time in both the cases to look back as well as look forward. Introspection, Innovation, Information, Inspiration become crucial to take the future shape and show to the world that it still is alive and alert. Adibasi Socio Educational and Cultural Association (ASECA), West Bengal is such an organization which has celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Bantika High School, Nuniadanga, Post: Boinchi, P.S. Pandua, Dist: Hooghly, West Bengal. It is indeed a great occasion to talk something about this Organization and to remember all the yesteryear stalwarts who had immensely contributed for the general welfare through their relentless efforts, tireless activism, profound dedication, selfless contribution. The heroes and heroines may have departed from this world but their deed always will inspire and ignite the imagination of the generation next. May be most of them are not even remembered now, but reality is that the flame they had ignited in some point of time is still illuminating many minds and making them realize their responsibilities to do something for the society.

It was on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1967, ASECA, West Bengal took its small maiden step towards promotion of Ol Chiki Script and other developmental social works revolving around Ol Chiki. The staunch support this organization could gather through direct intervention is commendable and a matter of pride. Initiative

was taken to bring together Santal community through a common sacred thread of Ol Chiki. It was not a small initiative as they had to face hostile behaviour from many quarters and perhaps the greatest achievement was to defeat the inferior complexity among the members of the Santal Community. The fire to achieve and zeal to continue that were evolved was commendable and only the people who had the opportunity. It was a thrilling and unparallel experience to witness vast gathering in support of Santali language, social cause and Ol Script from time to time. ASECA, West Bengal has demonstrated that one can reach to people and strike the sentiment without any political patronage.

One cannot forget the broadcast of Santali programme from All India Radio, Kolkata. It is because of the initiative and influence of ASECA, West Bengal. This Organisation had the blessings of Guru Gomke Pandit Raghunath Murmu. Perhaps He had received more than his expectations.

It will not be out of place to make an attempt to carry out analysis of the state of affairs of all the ASECA's which were established under the guidance and stewardship of Pandit Raghunath Murmu namely for Odisha in Rairangpur, Bihar in Chakulia and West Bengal in Kolkata. In active scale these can be graded from top to bottom serially in the order as West Bengal, Bihar now Jharkhand and Odisha. One is not sure whether these three ASECA's have any direct link or continuous relationship or any common agenda to pursue. It is a matter of fact that Santali language or Ol Chiki is passing a crucial testing time at present than any other point of time in the history. The opposition has become vocal and it is being threatened time and again but it still is able to

continue thanks to many individuals at personal level.

It is natural to expect that when the Associations were formed by Guru Gomke himself, where was the need to establish so many other Organizations for the promotion of Santali language, literature through Ol Chiki. Everybody or at least majority would have been enlisted as members in these Organizations but it did not happen in that way. The Organizations though mushroomed were not able to reach to the expectations of the people or people were not in a position to understand the worth of unified and stable Organizations. For any Organization to prosper, the main moving force is the participation of the people and not otherwise always. People make an institution or organization great, vast and prominent. The movements, initiatives by ASECAs are at a crossroad and it requires stable

and viable leadership, unequivocal participation, generous donations, fellow feeling, burning desire to march ahead and suitable developmental model.

All India ASECA has its root in the desire of Late Lakhiram Mandi, once General Secretary of ASECA, West Bengal. He was the mastermind to establish this organization at Delhi in order to have larger focus and immense intensity. His dream remained unfulfilled due to his sudden demise soon after his retirement from Govt. Service. It was indeed a great loss to the Santal Community. Had he continued for some more time, perhaps a new paradigm would have been in place for vibrant people oriented Organizations in the making of a solid society.

Congratulations and best wishes for a bright future for ASECA, West Bengal.

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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.

25/02/17:Chaitan Soren: Respected all, We are the Kherwals, truth is in our blood. So always try to go through empirical truth. If someone says donate 50 paise per day for 10 years i.e. Rs 1825, and your dream comes true. Does it actually happen? I don't believe so. We have very very rich culture with us which we are gifted by our forefathers. So let's follow them culturally, religiously & involving others. Let's lead in educationally, financially etc. And let's have confidence to fulfil the objectives of the SSC, so that SSC will function properly in coming days.

24/02/17: Somnath Hansdah: Thanks a lot for conveying the approx. budget of SSCC. Because so many members have been asking me several times about this and accordingly I had put up my request. It is highly appreciated to gomke PC Hembram Sir from my side. Really we are on the way of creating the biggest history in the name of Bhanj Veer Sunaram Soren. Now we have to decide ourselves. Name should be written on the basement tiles of historical statue of Sunaram Soren or not. We are earning lakhs of rupees and expending easily without a historical occasion. So be excited, be positive and

compromise to be a part of it to make it a grand success.

Now we started the work in grassroots level for SSC Celebration campaign. It has been started now at Kuliana (Chandua Block). For this positive initiative, I am very thankful to Shri R Ashwani Banjan Murmu (Bablu) from Tolkho, Shri Sankar Murmu and Shri Bhagmat Hansdah from Andhari (Andhariya). Now they have started to nominate and list out at least two active members from each village and are spreading the awareness regarding SSCC. It will be extended to all over Mayurbhanj district step by step Block wise. I like to request all of our dignitaries, please come forward and give the names from each Block for reference and make it easy for smooth functioning of our SSCC campaign. Our next step is to publish leaflets and distribute the same door to door and school to school of each Block of Mayurbhanj district. If any valuable suggestions, may be conveyed regarding this. I think approval letter is still pending till now so far.

After reading the valuable message of gomke C Soren sir, I got one idea, i.e. if somebody thinks, 10k is a very big amount to pay at a time, it can be

paid in 3 or 4 instalments. If my suggestion is granted, then everybody (250-300 members) can contribute so easily to fulfil our big target of SSCC.

25/02/17: Chaitan Soren: Sir, obviously I have learnt from my Company that "Coming together is beginning, keeping together is progress & working together is success." Let Lord Marangboro & Goddess Jaher Ayo, bless for your idea. From my side, I have already completed more than half part, & I assure you, remaining part very soon.

25/02/17: Dr Subrat Soren: After remaining dormant for few days I thought I would like to explain why we need such type of celebration. May it be birthday or centenary. Why we need to establish the forefathers' legacies? Is it so essential? I have read and tried to understand different great personalities of our state and country as well as other countries. May it be great adivasi leader Nelson Mandela (I believe him Adivasi as because black are the native dwellers) likewise we Adivasi here. More particularly we the Santal believed to be more educated population as compared to other tribal population. It is utmost essential to build the self-recognition and dignity to the present society. We have to show the world we have had stars or legend personality born and they have made the platform for us. Now we will have to make a symbolic as well as carry forward the guiding principles given by great great personalities. Mahatma Gandhi may be a great personality and master mind of independence but he was a great supporter of varna system and ultimately supremacy of upper caste. Citing it as Gandhi wanted caste hierarchy has to be preserved at any cost so everyone has a motive. Although we are nowhere in varna sytem and some mythology books mentioned about Adivasis are demons. Now if we don't raise our heroes who had sacrificed their lives for the development of community then new generation how come be influenced and carry forward the legacy which will be critically required to get our community liberated. Sunaram Soren could have chosen a luxurious life but he cried for the Santal and Adivasi community. He sacrificed his entire life simply because of his community to get self-recognition and dignity. He wanted to see a progressive society. If we do not recognise our hero and their sacrifice certainly we are disrespecting their souls. We have to propagate among the generation that we had also heros who had given us ideas and pathways. This kind of celebration will definitely unite us. Without unity and support from our mass we may not get our dues. Establishing the values and ideas of our

forefathers will definitely help our community more progressive. My dear members it is not about you and me or Baripada versus Rairangpur Santal or Odisha versus Jharkhand but for the pride of whole Santal family. So dear member be serious, try to read the forefathers and participate in a greater way. If you guys get time do not forget to read Constitution of India preferably Fundamental Rights and Article 330 to 342, Fifth and Sixth Schedule etc. and other Articles and amendments for Adivasi. Positive criticism is welcome.

26/02/17: Somnath Hansdah: Dr. Subrat Sir, I tried to sleep, but was not able to sleep without appreciating you for your valuable thoughts. Why and what for we are celebrating the birthday or birth centenary of our great hero gomke Sunaram Soren. Your thoughts are highly appreciable and genuine. Adding to that I am expressing my views i.e. by celebrating this birth centenary of our great hero, not only we are representing/re-promoting him once again in our society and in front of the govt. for his great deed. He had sacrificed his whole life for uplifting our community/society. We got a great opportunity to promote ourselves, learnt so many new things to develop our knowledge, promote our ideologies to build up unity for our society. Most useful for our youngsters, new generations to learn so many new things from us to develop our society in future. As per my personal view, it is a great chance, such a great platform which I have got after 13 yrs to do some thing for our great hero and for our society. For my little bit introduction, before 13 years I was fully involved with heart and soul for our Santali language revolutions and its inclusion in 8th Schedule. That time I had gone inside the Parliament Bhawan and met Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Bajpayi ji along with Balasore MP Shri Mahameghabahana Aira Kharavel Swain ji for handing over the memorandum of All india OI Chiki Student Union on 11th December 2003. At that time also, like now; so many nights passed without sleep. Now same thing is happening like that only. So I am giving assurance to all that we should succeed definitely. Just some positive response and cooperation is required.

26/02/17: Ashwini Murmu: Its absolutely very humble manifestation of Somnath Sir and Subrat Sir. I don't know why my inner heart says we'll overcome and we'll succeed. As a new breed to our society we need little bit more concern and faith on each other. Being the part of Pilchu gana, we must have genuine togetherness among us by eliminating our differences. We must be careful in our words and

work which will not put any negative impact on any dedicated worker of our society because demoralising someone will ultimately weaken our society. Let's be open hearted to appreciate each other; let's put hand in hand let's care for each other, let's walk together.

26/02/17: J N Majhi: Dr. Subrat gomke, Ashwani gomke නබ උනුඋනුඋනු ජනපත, න.උග න.උග උනුඋනු නබ උනුඋනු. න.උග උනු උනුඋනු. උනුඋනු constructive discussion උනු න.උනුඋනු platform උනුඋනු උනුඋනු. Yes, I agree, we are different individuals. We may be having difference of opinion but these differences can be ironed out by debate and discussion only. Debate and discussion give us more knowledge and strength to move forward. Five fingers are not equal but together they make a hand which can do most beautiful and wonderful things on the earth which a single finger can not think of. This is the strength of unity which we value in this SSC and willingness to shoulder responsibility of showcasing the path (rich cultural heritage) shown by our ancestors which our society should follow and respect. Let us remember those great Santal leaders and draw inspiration from them. Let us preserve their contributions towards the society that would be seen and remembered by and inspire the generations to come.

28/02/17: Dr Subrat Soren: Economic empowerment, Political empowerment and Social empowerment, we are far far behind. Sunaram Soren started working in all segments. Educational empowerment so that economic empowerment is achieved. Worked on political independence; had started own party to get political liberation. Now it is the high time to do a deep analysis if at all we want to survive with our race, culture and society. Already we have been hijacked. Only we the people can do something for our future to come.

01/03/17: J N Majhi: Well said by gomkes. Education is the only solution for development of an individual and a society as a whole. It opens up eyes and mind to see and think rationally. Ours is basically a self-sufficient, self-reliant and independent society from

the begining. Of course this is changing with change in outlook of our people because of education and economic requirement. Politically we are at the fag end of the line. We have been walking along with others on the path of development since independence but how much have we achieved compared to others. We do not have time or do not care beyond ourselves to think for others. If not for constitutional provision, we would have remained where our parents were. Ashram school is a good for education and social upliftment as visioned by our Bhanj Veer. It is educating our downtrodden mass. This is still not enough. We have to think collectively for the best education for our future generation which should produce good students who can compete with others. As such we can not walk but have to increase our pace to catch up others and leave them (diku) behind.

01/03/17: P C Hembram: Dear all, we must appreciate the eagerness expressed by Dr Subrat Soren. Perhaps all of us do not know about his busy schedule. He is pursuing his post MD course in Neurology. If he can find time to interact with all, others should also reciprocate. Silence is not expected and reply from few regular people is also not a good sign. Think over. The solution to whatever problems we are highlighting has a requirement to have a continuous dialogue with our people at the grassroots level. That connect is missing. In order to achieve that goal we have to have necessary resources and infrastructure. I have got a design of a conference hall with an estimation of around 30 lakh which includes gadgets. Can we achieve collectively or can we find some or single individual from our community to donate for the society remains a question. Let us move towards for finding solutions. Very well said by J N Majhi Gomke. Our real problem lies in the first two sentenses as highlighted. Education is required for personal and economic development and should have been utilised for strengthening social foundation but the same is not happening in a big way which is expected. Works need to be done on this. **{To be continued...}**

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