



ASECA CHANNEL

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Editorial

Having history is a commendable legacy. There is a vast difference when one is having a history of his existence and another does not. Adivasis in general and Santals in particular are fortunate enough to have such background, which is inspiring them from one generation to another. This very reality has been their motivation factor, which prompts them from time to time to raise voice and come together for resolution of a crisis or addressing a new problem area. When it comes to celebrate some important occasion, it has been gradually learnt by various groups that celebration has to be there. There has to be public display and dissemination of information on the importance of the past so as to enable insiders as well as outsiders to learn and appreciate about the virtues of good things prevailing in a society whether big or small.

Congregation of people or followers is a main feature in celebrating the great events or birthdays of important and popular personalities. It is commonly experienced that participation is directly linked to the sharing of information and publicizing the event in a proper way and with the involvement of right spirited volunteers. People always look forward to such events and also participate if the intention and initiative are genuine. The flow of information, however, has to be two ways. Otherwise, it becomes very difficult to achieve the desired goal.

The Centenary Celebration of Bhanj Veer Sunaram Soren is knocking at the doorsteps. One cannot afford to waste time in this juncture as timely intervention and focus on preparation would yield a good result. Complacency will definitely reduce this event

as a mediocre one, which is least expected by one and all.

As number becomes pivotal, attempts should be taken to organize and ensure participation of large number of people to make it a bold and grand success. Some quarters feel that there is no problem for a gathering of one lakh people whereas others have their own share of apprehension. There has to be sustained approach and involvement in realizing this thought into reality. Gradually, volunteers are offering their services and the number is growing day by day. Going by the eagerness to participate in the process, the apprehension is giving way to positive realization. The reasoning of such possible achievement is like this. Santals attend so many cultural events in great numbers and celebrate other festivals in a grand way. The time has come to congregate in remembrance of a personality who has fought for the society and sacrificed a lot for the welfare and positioning of the society. This time people will be participating for a social cause and to demonstrate that they care for the society and also to give the message that they honour and reciprocate to a call for the social unity, consolidation, fraternity and brotherhood.

Just imagine a sea of humankind on the D-day witnessing the unveiling of a grand statue of Bhanj Veer Sunaram Soren and celebrating the event in a befitting way. What could be the better history in the making than this to consolidate and renew the brotherhood? This positive realization shall definitely chart out a new dimension and direction for the welfare and overall development of Santals.

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.

28/01/17: Dr Subrat Soren, Kerala: My sincere request to all of you to put some thoughts regarding his death. He did not die because of psychiatry illness but he was made mentally challenged by giving lethal injection. He was arrested, put in jail that to in a dark room for several months during early eighties just because he wanted all adivasi to get their dues. We are so subtle and quick to judge someone. Why I am telling now because I have heard people gossiping disom katha uyhar uyhar te pagla enay. It really hurts. He was murdered by giving slow poison. He was tortured like anything by diku that in post independence era. Who had stood up with him at that time. No one. His health condition deteriorated and lastly he expired. He was given punishment because he had a massive mass support and working day and night to build a new party that was "NIKHILO UTKAL ADIVASI CONGRESS" in order to give us dignified and progressive life. Many of his own leaders betrayed him by telling "CONGRESS chamcha" simply his party name was Adivasi CONGRESS. They sidelined him when Sunaram Soren wanted them to remain united. He had organised majority of tribal people of Orissa under this banner. He could have been the chief minister if everything gone correctly and important thing was united support. I know we people judge very quickly without putting logic. I am not pointing to anyone but just wanted you all to rejudge and draw a positive inference. We should not bury him as some other way. Exact year and month I don't have confirmation initially he was put in house arrest then, put him in jail and kept in dark room). it is just an appeal.

28/01/17: P C Hembram: The date of birth issue is not new to us. The archives of Odisha Legislative Assembly (OLA) profile shows name as Sonaram

Soren and date of birth as November 1920. We had deliberated this issue at length. The busts of Sunaram Soren have also been installed by govt. agencies - one at Baripada and another one at Bahalda. In both the places the DOB has been mentioned as 4.2.1918. Birth anniversary in some places is observed on fourth February only. The newspaper article and documents available on Sunaram Soren also mentioned date as 4th February 1918.

So it was concluded that may be information in OLA is due to typo error. And it was felt ok to go with the prevailing practices as this day is accepted by the family members of Sunaram Gomke.

As govt of Odisha did not observe guru gomke centenary, it is least expected that it will be organised this time. That's why this initiative is from all of us. Otherwise, where is the need. We would have associated ourselves with the official arrangements. Let us continue with the present preparation.

The life, struggle and ambition of Sunaram Soren Gomke are too large and complex to be understood from WhatsApp discussion. Remain involved to understand about all these.

31/01/17: Dr Durgi Soren Hansdah: Date of Birth of Gomkey Sunaram Soren was on 04.02.1918 Monday afternoon. As per home records available with Sj. Thakurdas Soren, brother of sunaram gomkey. So there is no question of doubts or controversy I think.

02/02/17: Dr Mohan Murmu: Feeling happy and elated to see the interest, support and contributions as per the personal capacity for such a noble cause. This is really a very good move. This is what our community and society require at this moment. I also

sincerely request and appeal to other members please make your contribution for the grand success of the Centenary of our great leader.

03/02/17: Ashwini Murmu: On the eve of SUNARAM SOREN 100th birthday celebration, I have few words regarding statue of Sunaram Soren. I always feel the height and size of statue is much shorter than his sacrifice and contribution. Most often I also feel that his statue has been kept neglected and abandoned in the corner of the road. It is kept so unnoticeable that 60% of Baripadian cannot say where the Sunaram Soren Statue is located in Baripada. So in nutshell I want to say that there is nothing wrong if we can replace the current statue by a bigger statue of full body. Can we put this agenda for tomorrow and bring unanimity. This is a small proposal from me hope it will be taken care. I am too much excited and the same time going to miss the celebration very much.

04/02/17: Dhananjay Hembram: Mid Mone ar mid line saonte jumid Baber te tol dohog ge Bhanjbir Sunaram Soren tikin lagit marang Tribute do huyug-a. All India Aseca led by Purna Babu for giving Tribute to Bhanjbir Sunaram is great and greater efforts. Thanks to all concerned and may THE MARANGBURU make the beginning of CENTENARY a grand Success. Tehenj Centenary dinre uyharag-a mid khod anjam jnam serenj. Suna Soren Sakwa dadiburubajna bhanj Disom talare sadetarkog. Actually he had won the heart of Tribals during his leadership. As Minister of Orissa with Dr Mahtab he showed great influence in Govt. and occupied significant role for Tribal development and other 3 Depts given to him. He was next to Mohtab as he was thorough in the Law and spirit of the Constitution of India. He attempted to form a party named Nikhila Utkala Adibasis Congress to unite all Tribes of Odisha to preserve and protect Tribal Identity and development. Really he was a great soul of Santal and Odisha as a whole. He was incomparable. I heard that he pursued Law(LLB) in Madhu Sudan Law College before independence and completed the course in spite of untouchability attitude which was very severe at that time. He was

not allowed in Hostel and stayed outside and used to hang prepared food at branch of the tree. He never accepted failure in spite of all social hardships and barrier during those time. He was great and still a Great soul in our Heart. He deserves such Tribute. Hirla Marangburu.

05/02/17 : Ms. Saraswati Baske: Thanks for the great initiative and goal of the programme. It was our privilege to be part for this celebration. As quoted by baba saheb ambedkar "paying back to the society" now seems to be possible. Because Together we can rebuild the rich culture of santal community. As individuals we have developed now United we have to stand.

06/02/17: P C Hembram: Dear all, Let us first acknowledge the goodwill of kind hearted responsible persons who without loss of time extended support so that event could be organized. Some experience are worth sharing:

1. Always there are people who support good initiatives;
2. It is a unique experience to walk in memory of a great personality and a moment to cherish and a lifetime experience.
3. The communication channel of illiterate and semi literate people are better than educated people. They participated in large number with a single point communication system whereas able persons complained about lack of information and communication.
4. People are not availing this avenue for integration and an opportunity for involvement.
5. Our number in this group is enough to do many things with the contribution of 1k each. But let us see how many are there out of us who may like to donate 1 thousand.
6. The villagers took one day off to make this event a grand success. We should think whether we are in any way better than them.
7. This group was created to explore possibilities and pull together resources for development of some common social network and infrastructure. It should be an activity centre than an info sharing platform. The posting is becoming too lengthy request to bear the same.

08/02/17: J N Majhi: Joto Gomkekoge Johar. Good work done is always appreciated and encouraged. Well said, but let us not dilute the very purpose of this platform by posting unnecessary materials. Let us add more and more persons to this group who can genuinely add more value to our discussion. Some ideas have been suggested by Gomkes as what events should be organised in memory of SSCC including installation of a life-size statue. To achieve this objective, let us donate freely whatever we can as per our capacity. This will definitely make a difference. Johar

09/02/17: Chaitan Soren: Sir, plz don't block any number. Bcz we all have certainly some knowledge & talent. Applying knowledge & talent give very effective result , But where? Obviously I think in a right place. So, all topics cannot be discussed in a single routine period. So, our priority should be to maintain discipline. Discipline means I think whether we want or not, but we have to follow & obey AIASECA. Bcz continuous brain storming is going on. Rather if anybody wants to share any valuable suggestions, then plz send to Mr P C Hembram sir by post. If your ideas accepted in majority, I hope it must be standardised. Myself also given up to post unnecessary things. Don't you think, we all are like precious jewel. May some ideas contradict, otherwise we all are gentlemen or gentlewomen. So, let's start with full strength. We can see rest is easy going.

Johar to All, Baba Tilka Majhi was the first freedom fighter of India .August Cleaveland and Sir Eire fought with the army of Baba Tilka Majhi. On 13.01.1784 Baba Tilka Majhi killed Cleaveland with his arrow. Baba Tilka Majhi was then trapped by the Britishers during the war. Baba Tilka Majhi was then tied to the tail of horse and dragged all the

way to collector's residence at Bhagalpur, Bihar. There his lacerated body was hanged from a banyan tree. In his memory Tilka Majhi University has been established in Bhagalpur, Bihar as an educational institution. Today is his birth anniversary as he was born on 11.02.1750. Let's celebrate and remember him on this auspicious occasion. We can also demand the North Odisha University to be named as Sunaram Soren University as he was a great educationalist who established many ashram schools for sc/st students.

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