



# ASECA CHANNEL

(A monthly Journal from All India ASECA)

Website: [www.allindiaaseca.org](http://www.allindiaaseca.org)

E-mail: [contact@allindiaaseca.org](mailto:contact@allindiaaseca.org)

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## Editorial...

Countrywide debate is continuing on the degree of freedom of expression to be exercised by the citizens of India. The country does not have a clear-cut guidelines or rules on this important issue and it is being analyzed, deliberated from time to time by the media, intelligentsia, common people, administration and above all the Courts of India. Sometimes common citizen wins and on some other occasions, the actions taken by the Government are upheld by the Courts in India. The discussion continues, people forget over a period of time before some new dispute arises. Though freedom of expression has been guaranteed as one of the Fundamental Rights, yet advisory has always been to exercise this right with responsibility, sensitivity and restraint.

The freedom of expression finds its ways through a book, media coverage, cinematic expression, public announcement, public demonstration etc. With the burgeoning spread of electronic media, any such event is being highlighted and covered extensively. The intensity of the feeling thus generated sometimes jeopardizes peace and law and order. It may create community animosity as India is having diverse population and community. Inter community issues are in fact difficult to handle but it does not take much intervention to resolve the inter community issues. The national issues and other issues of greater impact on the communities are vividly debated, defended or denounced.

The comments on Adivasis were earlier recorded by non-Adivasis and it was easier to express dissent on some issues, which are not liked by majority of people. But situation is changing. With the spread of education and change in pattern of vocation, the social fabric

has also undergone change. The earlier condition of egalitarianism no longer exists in its old form. The classes within the community have emerged due to variation in income, position, educational standard, belief system, exposure to out side world etc. Recently, a book namely "The Adivasis Will Not Dance" with characters and names having resemblance with a particular community has been banned by Government of Jharkhand. Moreover, the author belongs to the same community of which he has narrated the story. The reaction has been mixed as far as the media persons or writers in general are concerned but from the community, the majority view is against the book citing the reason as exaggeration and poor writing standard. The general intra community view is that the contexts and contents could have been dealt with maturity and with minimum offensive expressions.

One needs to understand the community strength and feeling of dignity. Santals have grown up with the understanding and value system, which provide them a sense of dignity and pride. The inter community dialogue and discipline provide much needed freedom to select and choose and there is a set pattern with which a Santal women expresses herself and conducts socially, culturally, emotionally and economically. The concept of offering sex for food is not accepted generally as Santal women know the dignity of labour and manage life through hard work. The portraying of exceptional issues, even if it happens remotely does not occupy the imagination of majority of people. Perhaps that is the reason; the intelligentsia from Santal community has not come forward openly to defend the writer. It has been perceived as transgression and excess by the writer.

Every society has internal discipline and an established value system. There are so many situations and realities to be observed, analyzed and narrated. Controversies do not occur unintentionally. The creator knows that it may hurt the sentiments and people will definitely raise their voices of dissatisfaction and discord. Still they indulge in this kind of

activities. It is to be understood that the freedom of expression is not one-sided nor it is privy to some only. Others also do have the equal right to dissent and disapproval. Both have to be accommodated and one cannot and should not be allowed to enjoy the freedom of expression as an exclusive commodity.

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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.

30/05/17: **P C Hembram:** Dear all, Under the initiative of Mr Madan Mohan Tudu and Mr Arjun Marndi, a meeting was held at Rourkela on 28th May 2017 on Sunaram Soren Centenary Celebration(SSCC). The experiences were shared on celebration of Guru Gomke Centenary Celebration (GGCC) in the year 2005 in order to chalk out the action plans on SSCC. It was revealed that during GGCC, three types of responses/symptoms were prevalent namely "Silence", "Tired" and "Hopeless". But it was resolved during this meeting that same weaknesses should not be repeated. It was also opined to categorise the donors and felicitate them. In principle it was decided that social unity needs to be forged and to achieve the same, contribution from the people should be there. By June end individuals as well as group would convey their contribution amount. This is a positive sign for others to emulate.

01/07/17: **Barial Majhi:** I think uneducated and poor villagers are contributing or paying back more to Society than we so called Whats App intellectuals barring few. Neither able to do individually or collectively, nor physical participation, no financial support. Neither leading any social cause nor allowing others to lead freely nor reaching top post in job. We are best only in advising others and giving thanks. I am really saluting to all individual & groups whoever have participated in Hull Maha but also

am fearing that it will slowly die down and will again surface in June next year. Similar situation for all our activities. Just sharing my feeling without targeting anybody.

01/07/17: **Dr Subrat Soren:** Just to share some of Gomke Sunaram Soren thoughts on jatra pata and ଘଣ୍ଟିଠାଗି ଚାକି ଠାଣିଗି prayash...Gomke had started the mission to educate the people regarding the bad outcome related to jatra, pata etc..It was real threat to own society. Earlier ଠାଣିଠାଣି ଗଠିକି ଧରଣିକି etc. were in practice in the society which really were a bad thing. If you see one side few of our people engaged in selling handi on the other hand who are consuming losing lot of things at personal level as well as family and society level. Gomke had printed pamphlets (still available at his home town) to make aware and educate the cons of the jatra pata etc. Someone may point out the need of jatra to preserve the traditional values but probably people involved in the jatra pata did more damage to society in terms of financial and the culturally. Gain is zero. Handi bonga and handi business are two different aspects. We are more damaging to the richness of our culture and to be honest very bad impression among chhatik just because of handi bhati etc. We the people do not know the limits. Good

things and richness among us probably are getting burried and not being limelighted.

01/07/17: **Madan Majhi:** Dr subrat Kumar has hit the bulls eye. That is what I and we all have been longing to do or achieve for our society at large. We are not creating awareness among our people as to what is good for our society, which core culture we want to retain for our identity and what reforms we need to allow and undertake in our society. There should be broad consensus among us on these issues, otherwise nothing is going to happen. We have to identify harmful effects of certain customs, rituals, age-old social practices which are dragging us down and not allowing us to grow and progress. Some of the issues have already been identified by Dr Subrat Kumar very clearly. We are not finding out why our educated people or new generation are not adopting and following, but only criticising them for not following our system and practices. Our society as it happens to any evolving society is very rigid and closed and does not allow and appreciate any liberal and progressive changes. That is what retards its progress. If you do not allow progressive ideas and reform your society without sacrificing the core values or identity, freethinking people will slowly leave the society or not fully follow its social practices, culture or religion. Sooner we realise, it is better for all the social reformers like us.

12/07/17: **Somnath Hansdah:** Thank you very much Murmu gomkey for your valuable thought. Exactly, it is unlikely happening. But now we people are understanding every thing. If we can try to change ourselves and our society, definitely we can do some betterment of our society and for our children also. Once again I want to lay down my views regarding what I was thinking about most shining moments of Santals, most valuable opportunity has been passed

away at Bhubaneswar. As we all know, Miss Purnima Hembram is the first Heptathlon from our Odisha and she has won the Asia level bronze medal and Miss Jauna Murmu was also a famous athlete with her. There should have been a big celebration at Bhubaneswar and it could have been organized a small celebration rally at Bhubaneswar city for legendary moments of our Santal society if little bit initiative were taken by some well known organisers. But, once passed means, we can realize it. Like that, as we are celebrating SSC, we have different different thinking to celebrate it. Somebody is thinking, Oh...it will be passed simply like this. Somebody is thinking like historical and some one is just observing it. Let's see, what and how the people are doing. But I like to request all of us, please be united and cooperate with each and every one of us; as we are Santals; we are all the gaanas of Pilchu Hadam and Pilchu Budhi. Irrespective of age, posts, salaries, ego, consciousness, organisations, living at various places and different ways of living styles, let's all just think for unity, do for unity of Santals and do for the enormously success of SSC.

13/07/17: **P C Hembram:** Dear Jauna Mai, Thanks for sharing information. We all are with you in your pursuit for excellence. Please do not hesitate to seek help whenever you may require. We are spread all across the country. You will surely find someone to help you.  
13/07/17: **Jauna Murmu:** Hm woh toh theek hai par Santali logo ko support nahi karte hai. Mujhe toh kabhi nahi. Abhi tak kuch v support nahi mila.

13/07/17: **Somnath Hansdah:** Eise mot sochna Jauna mai. Yes hum mante hain, Fagun aur Ashwani babu ke alawa, aap dono ko support korne ke liye Bhubaneswar ke Santal log koi nehi aaye. O sob se duk ki baat hai. Obhi bhi hum log usi ke bare me chorchha kor rohe hain.

13/07/17: **Jauna Murmu:** Ok thik hai  
13/07/17: Somnath Hansdah: Mujhe to ye bhi duk laag raha he...Homara ex-sports minister Mr Sudam Marndi babu bhi obhi tok keun dikhai nehi dete. Kahan goye....o... Let's our all group members also know the matter. Keun ki obhi tok ye baat hojom nehi ho raha hai. Itna duk ki baat hai.

13/07/17:Salkhu Murmu: Thanks P.C.Hembram Sir and Somnath Daa. We know these very well. I request our degnitaries in any field that they should not hesitate to convey their halting in any area, I request them to post or call our this group admin and will inform the concerned member of this group who are available in that area. I think you will get support in that area because in this group almost all members are spread all over India and all cities. But my request we must get information. Do not depend on our politician only. We the local people can help you as per our capacity.

13/07/17: **Dr Subrat Soren:** I heard regarding your resentment what you are indicating probably here is the reason, you have been dropped from relay 4×100 m and one of the girls has been included in your place. Irony is that we are having Sports Minister, Governor, Central Tribal Minister from own state. Still, we are not able to send you for Olympic games. I felt very bad for 2 reasons; one you couldn't make it to Olympics, second our people (Adivasi) are divided by political party, subtribes never have conscious level that we have a common agenda. To be successful we need every rappo to all essential personality from political to non political, judiciary to executives, Diku to non Diku. We should learn from particularly Brahman and South Indian politics. If the issues are related to the Tamilian both DMK and AIADMK

will come together not necessarily in a common platform keeping aside differences. Even I have seen Congress and BJP used to come together in Southern States for own development but I never have observed in Northern States. Lots of things are there to differentiate although. We are grossly and badly overshadowed by chhatik particularly Upper caste typical brahmanvadi(Not necessarily brahman). Of course hidden agenda is the reason. What we can do now onwards that we have civil servants retired /active executives, lawyer, politician not necessarily only someone adivasi, we can approach non adivasi who stands for the same cause. "Besi lokore bhi musa morena" what I believe is we have enough people there to help each other with a cause, someone who needs desperately. For this, our platform is ideal but nothing short cut out. Sorry for lengthy a bit.

13/07/17: **Jauna Murmu:** Jab competitions hoti hai aur hum jeete Hain. Paper mein aati hai odia Jhio jiti la.. Par support ki time to odia Jhio kahan chali gayi pata nahi. Kabhi ye aaya santali ladki ko support karo. Santal logo chahe toh bahut kuchh ho sakta hai. Santal log bhi kisi se kam nahi hai. Mujhe lagta hai Santal mein talent ki kami to hi nahi. Aap log ne dekha hoga Asian championship main. Ek taraf Duti ka chal raha tha. Ek taraf Purnima. Support kiska jyada tha?

13/07/17: **P C Hembram:** Jauna mai, Life is like that. Competition is everywhere. Concentrate on upcoming events and tell us if specific help is required. You are your own master and nobody can take away that from you. Best things are achieved through hard work.

{To be continued...}

**FROM:**

*If undelivered please return to:*  
**ALL INDIA ASECA,**  
SFS Flat No. 326, Pocket 10,  
Sector 11 (Extension), Rohini,  
**Delhi - 110 085.**

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