



VANAMITRA

NAGARVASI GRAMAVASI VANAVASI - HUM SAB BHARATHAVASI

Birsa Munda

A person is honoured only by his deeds. On the strength of his good deeds, he starts being worshiped like "God". Birsa Munda is also worshiped like a god by his good deeds.

Birsa Munda was born on 15th November 1875 in Ulihatu village of present-day Jharkhand. His mother's name was Karmi and father's name was Sugna Munda. His parents were crop-sharers. Birsa Munda belonged to Munda-tribe. He spent his childhood in the village of Chalkad. He was of strong stature.

He took great interest in studies. He passed the lower primary examination from Kundi Bartoli. He also studied in a mission school in Chaibasa. After getting higher primary level education, he started working in Gaur Peda's Swami family for livelihood. His owner's name was Anand Pandey.

In those days the opposition of German and Roman Catholics was increasing. Birsa was also affected by this. They joined the protest. The British wanted to convert the tribal agricultural system into feudal rule. They wanted to grab tribal lands. The tribal people could not stop them due to poverty and lack of power.

Birsa and some other Mundas decided to fight against it. They wanted to get the real rights of the land to the Munda people. This gave rise to many rebellions. The tribals were poor and uneducated. Birsa made them aware of their rights. He wanted to stand them up against injustice, so that they could get their due.

The British rulers did not like Birsa Munda. They wanted to stop their rebellion. Birsa Munda was a patriot. He took an active part in the freedom struggle. Initially also a reformist, later he made many rebellions against the British and started fighting, so he was arrested on 3rd February 1900. He was kept in the jail of Ranchi. There they were subjected to severe torture. Organized the



tribals of an undisputed leader. Sincerely suppressed the movement, so he was arrested many times but do not panic, he kept on agitating.

Birsa fought with the British with indomitable courage and full courage. In opposition to the Nayak family of the British along with the tribal people, they organized an armed protest the finance power. He was severely tortured in prison. He died there due to diarrhoea. He died only at the age of twenty-five.

Birsa's life was an example to others. In honour of his sacrifice, his portrait has been erected in the Central

Assembly Building of the Indian Parliament. Birsa Munda Airport, Birsa Munda Central Jail, Birsa Agricultural University etc. are some of the institutions named after him. Birsa's bravery and patriotism will never be forgotten. Even today he lives in the heart of every Indian.

Does 'International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples' Have Any Relevance in India?

World community observes 9 August every year as the 'International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples' to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. On this day, the original inhabitants or aboriginals in the various parts of the world gather together to remember the atrocities and subjugations they suffered in the hands of domineering people coming from different lands. Such solidarity among them has built up a solid pressure on the world community to recognize their rights taking their distinct culture and way of life into account.

A subsidiary body within the structure of United Nations called the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP) established in 1982 met for the first time in Geneva in the same year. Following the deliberations and recommendations of this body, the UN General Assembly on 23 December 1994 decided that each year 9th August should be observed as the International Day of World's Indigenous People.

The UN General Assembly in its resolution 48/163 of 1993 proclaimed that the world community will



observe the first International Decade of World's Indigenous Peoples from 1995-2004. The main objectives of this decade were to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education, and health. As per the resolution A/RES/59/174 adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2004, a Second International Decade commenced on 1 January 2005 and concluded in December 2014. The focused areas of this decade were promoting non-discrimination and inclusion, full and effective participation, adopting culturally appropriate development policies, etc.



India does recognize and support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples but strongly maintains that in India, all Indians are indigenous. It's of the opinion that the very concept of 'Indigenous Peoples' is misfit in Indian context and rightly so. Hence it's important to understand the description in relation to the concept.

The International Labour Organization's convention on 'Indigenous Peoples' of 1957 in its Article 1(a) characterizes them as less advanced on their socio-economic conditions in comparison to other sections of the national community. Further in Article 1(b), it says that they are the descendants of the original inhabitants before the conquest or colonization of the country or a geographical region and that their social, economic, and cultural institutions are distinct from people coming from outside.

From the above description of the concept of indigenusness, it's quite clear that in India prior to Islamic aggressions and the subsequent conquests in medieval times or British colonization in the modern era, there is no history suggesting aggressions or

conquests. Moreover, there are innumerable examples of harmonious coexistence and cultural exchange between and among people living in towns, villages, forests, and hills. The the colonial ill-intentioned invention of Aryan Invasion theory stands debunked from many quarters of historians and archeologists today.

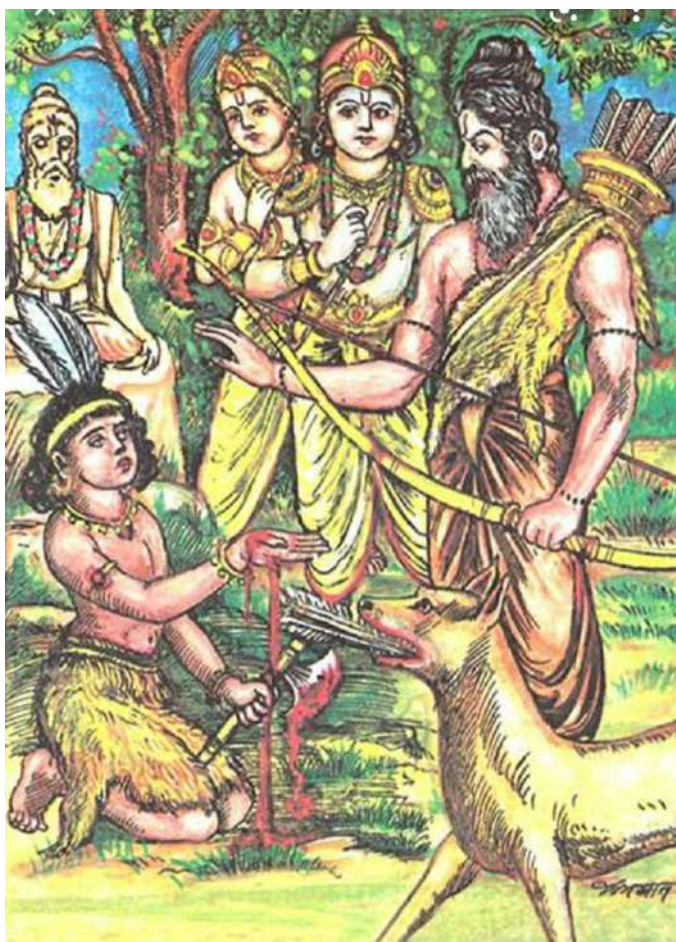
The Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads, Ramayana, and Mahabharata are replete with anecdotes that portray the intermingling of these cultures. Acharya Vinoba Bhave held Rigveda as the text of the janjatis. Many scholars believe that the 'panchjanas' mentioned in the Rigveda consisted of a person each from the brahmanas, kshatriyas, vaishyas, shudras and nishads—a tribal community and commanded equal status. The references of the the sabararas or the saoras could be traced to Aittareya Brahman. Many romantic and friendly descriptions of the tribals can be found in ancient Sanskrit literature like Panchatantra, Kathasarit Sagar, Vishnu Puran etc



Shabari offering fruits to Bhagwan Shri Ram

Shabari, who offered fruits to Rama, has become in Verrier Elwin's words, "a symbol of the contributions that tribes can and will make to the life of India." The tribal community had a very important and honorable place in the Ramayana. Vali and Sugriva have been mentioned of as the most glorious kings of the tribal society in the Ramayana. Most of the then known tribals have been described to have participated in the Mahabharata and its innumerable episodes.

Eklavya, a Bhil, has been described as an ideal disciple and embodiment of sacrifice. The Mahabharata has ample descriptions of tribal kingdoms and warriors fighting both to the sides of Pandavas and Kauravas. Bhima's son Ghatotkacha who performs prodigies of valor in the war is born of his tribal wife Hindimba; Arjuna marries Uloopi, a Naga princess.



Eklavya's supreme sacrifice for his Master

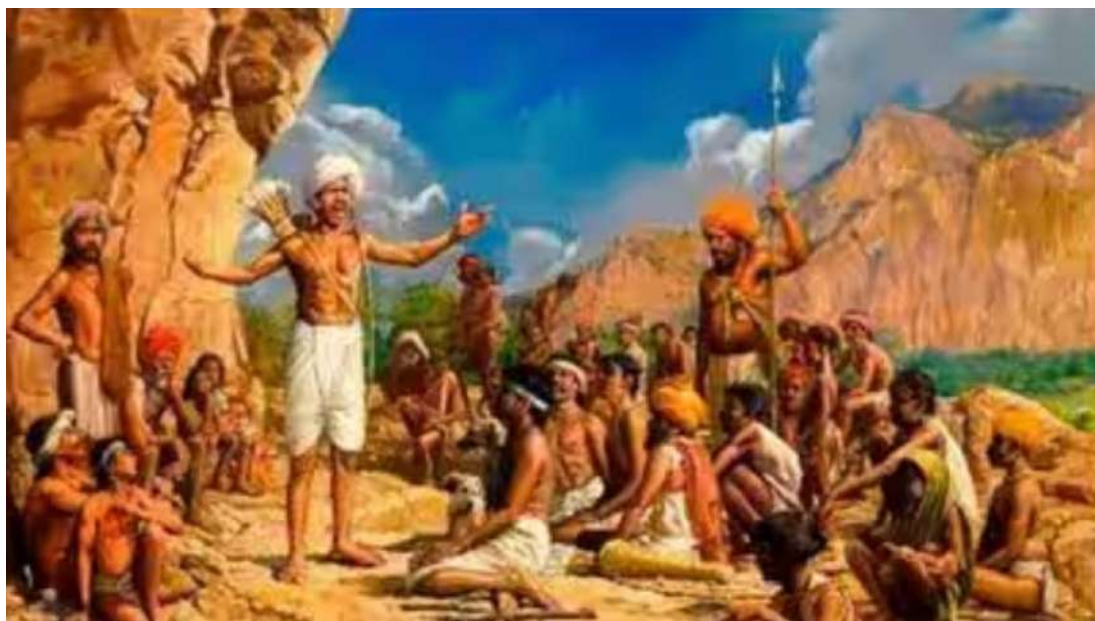
There are many evidences in the medieval and modern history of Bharat when people of the tribal communities fought shoulder to shoulder with Maharana Pratap, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Tatyia Tope in defense of Dharama and Rashtra. Furthermore, in many parts of India, they rose up against the British and joined the India's struggle for independence. To name some of the heroes of uprisings against British are Bhagwan Birsa Munda from Jharkhand, Umaji Naik from Maharashtra, Tantya Bheel from Madhya Pradesh, Alluri Sitaram Raju from Andhra Pradesh, and Rani Gaidinliu from Nagaland, Matmur Jamoh from Arunchal Pradesh, Pa Togan Sangma from Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

The above examples suggest that tribal people in India have the same notions of common

friends and foes as that of the other people. Many tribal communities that have been talked of in the ancient and medieval times don't exist today as a result of acculturation. Many Rajput kings in the Middle Ages migrated to inaccessible forest areas to evade the tyranny of Islamic rulers and became tribals, for example, Rani Durgavati a Chandela Rajput princess married a Gond King Dalpat Shah of Gadha Mandla and fought against Moghals. Therefore, Dr. Ghurye, a renowned sociologists observers, "Though for the sake of convenience they may be designated as the tribal classes of Hindu society suggesting thereby the social fact that they have retained much more of the tribal creeds and organizations than many of the other castes of the society yet in reality they are backward Hindus".

Therefore, while we recognize the atrocities, subjugations, and in some cases ethnic cleansing suffered by indigenous populations in the Americas, Australia, and many other parts of the world, we don't share anything in common with such history on our land. The practice of borrowing from other cultures and imposing that in our social milieu is counterproductive. Such artificially created sense of fissure and discord between communities needs to be rejected lock, stock, and barrel.

The "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas" being observed each year on 15th November since 2021 is, in fact, a day of celebration to commemorate Janjati people's contributions in maintaining Bharat's social fabric alive. Their courage, bravery and sacrifices are immense in keeping the Bharatiya values intact.



VanaVasi Kalyan Events

School bag, notebooks and umbrella distribution by Bangalore based company VIS network for a school run by Swamy Vivekananda Medical Mission for tribal students in Waynad.

Sangha Karyakarta and Vanavasi Kalyana well-wisher Sri Umashankar ji visited the school with 4 directors to hand over school kit to ~200 students.



ACER generously donated a Medical Van to Yadagiri. The grand inauguration of the VAN was carried out by the Managing Director of ACER. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated Karyakarthis **Sudhir Ji**, whose unwavering efforts were instrumental in making this initiative a reality. We would also like to acknowledge Karyakarta **Bhaskar Ji** for their exceptional execution of this Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project.



Bhushan ji from Whitefield Samitee visited Sankara Vidyanikethan school and got them sponsorship for 25 desks/bench through Abhaya Foundation.





Prathima ji along with few volunteers' distributed notebooks to school children at Ramanagar, Yeralli, Iruligaradoddi, Muneshwara Doddi, Salubanni.



Bhaskarji, Rameshji gave a presentation in a Bengaluru Apartment on Vanavasi Kalyan and its Volunteers.



Yuni, a student of Vanavasi Kalyan, has completed his Paramedical course (3+1 years) in Vydehi Institute of Medical Science and Research Centre, Bangalore with FIRST CLASS(65% marks). Currently he is going through internship for one year.



Vanavasi Kalyana is now recognized as a value partner for YFS for Telemedicine Project.



Vanavasi Kalyan Karnataka Prant Karlaya "VANASHRI" was inaugurated on 28th Aug 2023 at Chamundipuram, Mysuru. This will serve as Karnataka State Office for Vanavasi Kalyan Projects.

Here are few photos of Opening Ceremony:-



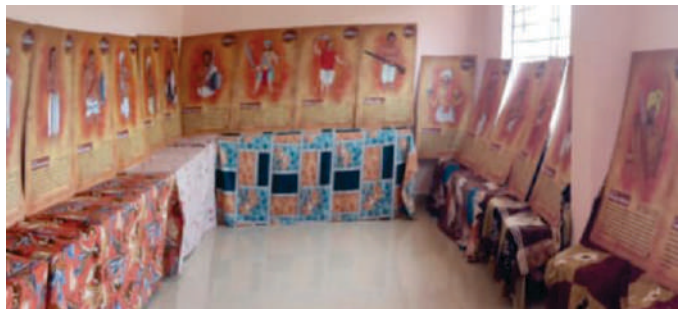
Sri Atul Jog ji - Vanavasi Kalyana Ashram - Akhil Bharateeya Sanghatana Mantri conducted Baitak & gave advise/guidance to the volunteers at Yadavasmruti Seshadripiram, Bengaluru.





A Speech on "Tribal Heroes in India's Freedom struggle" at KLE Nursing College, Dandeli was given by Bammu Patil. A total of 106 students and 6 professors attended the session.

Vastu Pooja and Gruha pravesh of KUMTA Chatravas + Skill Center





QUIZ

TIME TO TAP YOUR MEMORY...

BY M. ASHOK

- 01) What was the name of Swami Vivekananda's sister?
- 02) What would young Naren call himself while playing with his friends?
- 03) In which sport was Naren said to have won the first prize?
- 04) Vivekananda "is the maker of modern India". Who said this?
- 05) The founder of Ramakrishna Mission, which is based on the principles of Practical Vedanta was _____
- 06) Where did Sister Nivedita first meet Swami Vivekananda?
- 07) In 1899 Swami Vivekananda started a Bengali journal to carry forward the ideas propounded by the Ramakrishna Mission. It was called _____
- 08) Which of these adjectives has been most widely used to describe Swami Vivekananda?
- 09) What was the question that Swami Vivekananda asked Sri Ramakrishna at their first meeting?
- 10) Ekanathji Ranade founded a non-monastic organization based on the principles preached by Swami Vivekananda. What is it called?

Answers:

- 01) Swarnamayi Devi
- 02) Samrat, the King of kings
- 03) Athletics
- 04) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
- 05) Swami Vivekananda
- 06) London
- 07) Udbodhan
- 08) Vedantic Scientist
- 09) Have you seen God?
- 10) Vivekananda Kendra

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

- All donations are exempt from Income Tax under Section 80G of IT Act 1961
- One can make bank transfers as per below account details
- Donations can also be made through crossed cheques
- For 80G receipts, contact **Mr.Keshava +91-94829 84575**

India Resident Accounts

Account Name: Vanavasi Kalyana
SB Account number: 04212160000078
IFSC code: CNRB0011717 (For NEFT/RTGS Transactions)
IFSC Code: CNRB0000033 (For IMPS Transaction)
Bank: Canara Bank
Branch: Kuvempunagar II, Mysore 570 001
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Kuvempunagar, Mysore.
Branch Phone: 0821 2342 425
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About VanaMitra



This is an attempt to provide information on the work done by Vanvasi Kalyan Karnataka and to create awareness for the comprehensive development of the tribals of Karnataka. You too can participate as a volunteer. Send your feedback to the editorial board:

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