

Samvaad over the years

Tata Steel believes that private enterprise exists not for the sake of generating wealth for a few but is directly responsible for the well-being and happiness of society as a whole. Tata Steel's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) focuses on improving people's lives through initiatives in education, health, livelihoods, sports and ethnicity. A significant proportion of people residing in Tata Steel's operational areas are from the numerous tribes indigenous to Jharkhand and Odisha and a number of initiatives of our CSR focus on empowering these communities. One such initiative is '**Samvaad**'. In the best traditions of India's indigenous peoples, "**Samvaad**" encourages dialogues, discussions and dissent and celebrates the very essence of being tribal. Tata Steel takes great pride in hosting this one-of-its-kind forum at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand from **15th to 19th of November annually**. Every year, this event commences on the 15th of November, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, the legendary tribal hero who is revered as Bhagwan Birsa across the tribal belt of the country.

Samvaad is a forum for communities to come together; -bring collective wisdom under one roof so as to stimulate an exchange and cross-pollination of ideas; -document a body of knowledge and a world-view that runs the risk of being obliterated; -understand the issues and the angst of tribal communities, and sensitize non-tribal towards the same, thereby creating empathy and understanding, and -removing prejudices; and highlight success stories of individuals and organizations that can inspire and create a sense of hope and positivity.

Samvaad was born in 2014 in an environment where more than 1500 tribals from across the country were eager to proudly showcase their cultural heritage to the world; and those witness to this unique conclave were equally eager to immerse themselves in a novel experience of tribal life. In the event tribal intellectuals, artisans, performers, entrepreneurs came together from different parts of India to participate in various events like panel discussions, cultural programmes, handicraft exhibition cum sale.

Buoyed by its success, Tata Steel hosted Samvaad 2015 with a specific theme of 'Tribal Languages' to celebrate the beauty and richness of various languages, their literature and the wisdom ingrained in them and to underline the need to preserve the same. Both editions of Samvaad met with resounding success with participation of scholars, thinkers, artists, development practitioners, and activists – both from the tribal as well as non-tribal communities – from more than 20 states across the country.

Samvaad over the years

The theme for Samvaad 2016 was 'Tribal Health Systems'. A host of events were organized around this theme:

a) Panel discussions on various facets like Diseases afflicting tribal populations, Tribal medicinal systems, Tribal nutrition, Innovative models in tribal health-care, Role of Shamans in Tribal Health, etc.

b) Stalls for traditional tribal healers to display their medicines, where visitors were able to learn about these medicines and even try them out.

c) Paper presentations by research scholars and students on the various facets of tribal health as listed above, and

d) As a prelude to the main event regional Samvaad's were organized in three parts of the country - West India (Baroda), South India (Mysore) and North-East India (Shillong). These were one and a half day events in which one session was also around Tribal Health Systems. Some of the eminent names that have associated themselves with Samvaad are Padmashri Ganesh Devy, Padmashri Tulasi Munda, Padmashri Shantha Sinha, Padmashri Jadav Payeng, Padmashri Sentila Yanger, Dr S Parasuraman, Bishop Nirmal Minz, Prof Virginius Xaxa, Felix Padel, Oinam Doren, Dr R Balasubramanium, among several others.

The theme for Samvaad 2017 will be around Youth, especially 'Aspirations of Tribal Youth and Leadership for future'. We would hereby like to invite Mr. Nana Patekar to inspire about 1500 tribal delegates expected to come from about 20 states of India from more than 50 tribes attending the conclave here in Jamshedpur from 15th to 19th November 2017. It will be our singular privilege to have him with us during the event.