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Editorial

The United Nations (UN) was formed on 24th October, 1945, in order to maintain peace and security in the world soon after the devastation caused by the Second World War. UN came into existence after it was ratified by 51 nations with four main goals of maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, achieving international cooperation in solving international problems and being at the centre of harmonising the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends. This year, United Nations completes 75 years. During the last seven and a half decades, the UN has made great strides in dealing with a number of global issues. One of the greatest successes of the UN has been that it has managed to prevent a Third World War and it has been able to limit nuclear proliferation and prevent another atomic weapon being used on civilian population after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Though the UN has not been able to prevent wars and conflicts between some nations, it has tried to maintain peace with a number of peacekeeping missions in different parts of the world. The UN also facilitated the decolonisation process, which resulted in the birth of many new nations. In 1948, it created the World Health Organisation (WHO) to facilitate global efforts to deal with diseases such as smallpox, malaria and HIV. At present, the WHO is leading global efforts to

deal with the COVID-19 pandemic that has spread all over the world. In 1950, the UN created the High Commissioner for Refugees to take care of millions of people displaced due to World War II. It continues to support millions of refugees and stateless persons in countries all over the world. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted on 10th December, 1948, which set global standards for the protection of human rights of all peoples. An elaborate global human rights mechanism was developed which is being monitored by the UN Human Rights Council. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 to ensure rights of women in different parts of the world. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted in 2007 to guarantee the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples throughout the world. The Rio Earth Summit of 1992 resulted in the adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which has resulted in many agreements to address issues arising due to climate change, including the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015. At the beginning of the new millennium, the UN introduced the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that had to be achieved by 2015. After reviewing the progress of the MDGs, the UN broadened the scope of development by introducing seventeen Sustainable

UN@75 YEARS

Development Goals (SDGs) that had to be achieved by 2030. This approach brought significant progress in the lives of people in most countries in the world, except in conflict prone regions. As part of the yearlong celebrations, on 21st September, all 193 UN Member States participated in a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the theme: "The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism".

The UN Secretary General, António Guterres warned that the world faces a "surplus of multilateral challenges and a deficit of multilateral solutions". He identified gender inequality as the greatest single challenge to human rights and expressed his concern over the impending climate crisis, rising poverty and proliferation of nuclear weapons. He emphasized the need for greater global solidarity and improved global governance. The declaration adopted at the end of the meeting called for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development on goals such as protection of the planet and environment, promoting peace, digital cooperation, sustainable financing, gender equality and women empowerment. Let us hope that the UN initiatives to "leave no one behind" are able to rally all nations of the world to work towards peace and development in every part of the globe. □

Denzil Fernandes

UN THRUST FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: 75 YEARS JOURNEY

Shabih Anwer

Looking at the current role of the United Nations (UN) in its capacity as one of the most important organizations with a global view, the first and the most important goal of the United Nations towards sustainable development is to eradicate poverty, irrespective of its form and geographic presence. The 189 signatory countries to the Millennium Declaration at the 2000 Millennium Summit vowed to leverage the collaborative efforts towards eradicating poverty. Lifting one billion humans out of extreme poverty is reflected in the Millennium Development Goals triumph over poverty. This has helped to advance the second goal of zero hunger amongst the 17 spaces of operation noted under the Sustainable Development Goals.

The perpetual stance of development goal accomplishment with further reinforcement through continued commitment towards unattained goals showcases the continuous and sustained nature of the UN developmental framework. The aforementioned proposition could be validated through the continued striving of the United Nations from the onset of the Agenda 21 during the 1997 implementation to the multi-year programs of the Commission on Sustainable Development with multilateralism as the path forward; moving from the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which builds on earlier declarations made at the UN Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm in 1972, and the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit of 1992. This highlights

the perseverance of the agency towards its avowed goal of Poverty Eradication along with committing the nations of the world to sustainable development. The UN has assessed the requirement for a collective of country-wise, internationally and a regio-international collaboration to foster the sustainable nature of the developmental goals. To further accentuate the accomplishments by measuring the progress – at both national and international levels, the Voluntary National Review (VNR) mechanism serves as a check and balance as well as a knowledge-sharing model to foster internationally recognized goals committed to, by the signatory nations. The continued reviews of the accomplishments as well as the role of peer-learning further serves to establish a sustainable model of development.

Reading the aforementioned through the lens of the poverty eradication programs, the sustainable nature is evident to validate the working of the UN towards the array of its prioritized goals. As we further look at the goals, we move towards the most pressing current mission of the UN i.e. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The framework for sustained peace and prosperity for the people and the planet was negotiated at the 2015 Paris Agreement of UN Climate Change Conference – the 21st yearly session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol

– hence also known as COP 21 or CMP 11. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals stands at the heart of its immediate action requiring sustained efforts, which the UN along with 178 signatory nations adopted in the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit of 1992, being a party to Agenda 21. The global partnership for such a broad-based sustained effort means sustained cooperation between the nations belonging to various socio-economic levels; this has further strengthened the zeal to improve human life and the environment.

In the perusal of its goals the UN in its September 2000 Millennium Summit, held at UN Headquarters in New York, branched out eightfold, to meaningfully impact various socio-economic wellbeing parameters to help eradicate poverty by 2015 through its Millennium Development Goals. The Johannesburg chapter on Sustainable Development followed suit but with a further strengthening of the multi-lateral partnership aspect, which also included a focussed look at the environmental scenario, which was and is taking an unprecedented toll on our home planet's health.

Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Statement of principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests, also saw "The Future We Want" document which strengthened the UN's efforts towards the SDGs with the establishment of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The

UN's commitment towards the Development Goals saw the establishment of a specialized body committed towards the goal with refinement and advancement of measures, which included the augmentation of its data accountability and analysis through the VNR mechanism, accompanied by the focus on development financing and development of small island states. The agency now serves as the UN platform, which provides a continued follow-up and review machinery of the SDGs. Following this, the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Summit saw another sustained effort towards the goals through

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs at its core. 2015 saw an array of agreements including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Advancing the effort, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) component of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) stands at the epicenter of the multi-lateral cooperation of the nations' party to the SDGs. The division has made great advances towards the attainment of Development Goals.

The organizational as well as the member nations' commitment towards the SDGs showcase a sustainable framework towards the accompaniment of the same. But the recent health crisis, namely COVID-19, has undone two decades of efforts of the UN towards the development goals attainments by 2030, starting from a negative impact on extreme poverty, health, education, gender inequalities, to economic disparities. The role of the United Nations celebrating its 75 glorious years now becomes even more pivotal towards its sustained efforts of achieving the Development Goals. □

UN CONTRIBUTION IN EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

Archana Sinha

Empowerment and equality of women and progress of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. Furthermore, it is vital for achievement of sustainable development. The United Nation's work has been commendable and has entailed a relentless fight for equality between women and men. This reflection examines the work done by UN to defend and implement equality for women throughout the world.

The Commission on Status of Women created in 1946 was the first body in the UN system dedicated to protecting the status of women. The purpose of this Commission has been to draw up recommendations and reports aimed at ensuring women's rights under equal conditions with men in political, economic, social, and educational domains. The status of women was seen essentially as a legal concern in its initial years, where, demands

were mainly related to access to education, health services, and food, work in decent health and wage conditions, etc. In Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the organisation restated its commitment to promoting equality amongst people without gender difference. 1975 marked a turning point in the promotion of equality between men and women as the year was chosen by the UN to be International Women's Year.

Over several decades, the UN has made noteworthy advancement in advancing gender equality, comprising through Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by UN General Assembly. CEDAW, often described as an international bill of rights for women, defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such

discrimination. The Convention defined discrimination against women as any difference, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which impairs the recognition on the basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. Convention provided the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life. In 1995, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action focused on twelve critical areas of concern for women, namely, poverty, education, health, violence against women, armed conflicts, the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for advancement, human rights, the media, the environment and the girl child. In Beijing, the term "gender" was presented, defined

as “socially constructed roles assigned to men and women, and possibilities, opportunities and discriminations deriving from this. This new approach involved no longer dealing with status of women in an isolated way. In Beijing, the commitment by the international community in terms of women’s empowerment was strengthened, and systematic mainstreaming of the gender perspective was integrated into the policies.

Progress towards gender equality and women’s empowerment in the development agenda requires a human rights-based approach, and requires support for the women’s movement to activate and energize the agenda. Both were missing from Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 3. Empowerment requires agency along with multiple dimensions, that is, sexual, reproductive, economic, political, and legal. However, MDG 3 framed women’s empowerment

as reducing educational disparities. UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) works for empowerment of women since January 2011. However, much has changed since the MDGs were first formulated soon after the Millennium Declaration in 2000. It is certainly true that, as compared to devising of the MDGs, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been a more open and more inclusive process driven by UN Member States generating intense and wide debate. And yet, when it comes to gender justice, the goals sound strangely similar. MDG 3 committed to “Promote gender equality and empower women” while SDG 5 calls to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. However, two significant variances at this level are the obvious inclusion of girls, and of the word “all”, which can be used to address the challenges faced by the most marginalized and oppressed

women. More differences appear at the level of the targets under the goal: whereas MDG 3 had a single target focused on education, SDG 5 intends a range of targets to end discrimination, violence and harmful practices, recognize and value unpaid care work, participation and leadership in decision-making, and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

For many years, UN has faced serious challenges in its efforts to promote gender equality globally. Yet gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in every society. Full participation and partnership of both women and men is prerequisite in productive and reproductive life. Matters of equal status and human rights of women are methodically assimilated into the mainstream of UN agenda and activity addressed through its relevant bodies and mechanisms. □

UNITED NATIONS AND THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Vincent Ekka and Juhi Priyanka Horo

The League of Nations was the first intergovernmental organization founded in 1920 to resolve international disputes. Around the same time in 1923 Haudenosaunee the Chief Deskaheh from Canada travelled to Geneva to speak to the League of Nations and ‘defend the rights of his people to live under their own laws, on their own land and under their own faith.’ It was the first international involvement of any indigenous community in the history of nations. Later many other attempts were made to bring up indigenous struggles and concerns before the international

community.

The establishment of the United Nations on 24th October 1945 was a landmark step in promoting ‘international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.’ Together with its primary objective the UN also included within its ambit of concern the struggles and concerns of different communities, castes, ethnic groups and nations.

The indigenous peoples have always sought recognition from their governments,

international community and the UN of their identities, way of life and their right to traditional lands, territories and natural resources for years. The International Indigenous Movements began to take concrete shape in the 1970s. In 1971 the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted a resolution that allowed the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake a study on the discrimination faced by Indigenous Peoples. The Sub-Commission assigned Jose Martinez Cobo from Ecuador to carry out this study. In 1981

the Cobo Commission came out with some resolutions and proposals. The study offered a working definition of indigenous communities, peoples and nations as the following-

"Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity, as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions, and legal system."

This definition is widely accepted by indigenous peoples and nations. The Cobo commission also defined an indigenous person as, *"An indigenous person is one who belongs to these indigenous populations through self-identification as indigenous and is recognized and accepted by these populations as one of its members."* Besides definition, the Cobo Commission presented many recommendations and proposals. In 1982, a Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP) was established as a subsidiary organ to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. It was a great opportunity for the Indigenous Peoples to share their experiences and raise their concerns at the UN through the WGIP.

A milestone was made in the history of Indigenous Peoples and UN when indigenous delegates

were allowed for the first time to participate in two large UN Conferences in Geneva. The first Conference in 1977 in the presence of indigenous delegates addressed discrimination against indigenous populations of the Americas. The second Conference, in 1978 was dedicated to the fight against racism and racial discrimination, which finally led the States recognizing the linguistic, cultural, economic and territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples. In both the Conferences the indigenous peoples made important interventions.

With various international and internal pressures a UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples was created in 1982. The task of the UNWGIP was 'mandated to monitor the issues of recognition and protection of the rights and freedoms of Indigenous Peoples.' The report of the UNWGIP together with Cobo Commission report was published in 1986-87 which acknowledged the fundamental problems affecting Indigenous Peoples in various areas, such as health, education, housing and, again the management of lands and territory. The Working Group recommended—(1) The Adoption of a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, (2) the organization of an international year dedicated to Indigenous Peoples, (3) revision of the International Labour Organization Convention 107.

The indigenous movements intensified in successive years. Soon after the submission of the UNWGIP report the UN bodies started taking Indigenous Peoples and their issues more seriously. It was in 1989 in the ILO Convention 169 the demand for rectification

in ILO Convention 107 was met. In the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 the proposal to create a permanent forum on indigenous issues originated. The UN General Assembly declared 1994 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples, followed by declaring 1995-2004 as the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, extending 2005-2014 as the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. In 1999 an ad hoc Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights met to prepare a draft proposal to create a Permanent Forum. Thus in the year 2000 Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) was created by the UN as a consultative body to ECOSOC on indigenous issues. Furthermore, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) was created on 14 December 2007 which replaced the UNWGIP the former Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. In 2001 the UN Commission on Human Rights considered the idea of creating a position for Special Rapporteur on the Rights Indigenous Peoples. In the history of Indigenous Peoples another milestone was set when on 13th September, 2007 the United Nations adopted a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Finally under the aegis of the UN, the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was organized on 22 September 2014 at New York. With UN actively participating in the life journey of the Indigenous Peoples, the international community now recognize that special measures are required to protect their rights and maintain their distinct cultures and way of life. □

THE UNITED NATIONS AND INDIA'S QUEST TO ERADICATE POVERTY

Anjali Das

The year 2020 marks a special anniversary for the United Nations (UN) as it marks 75 years of the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco. In 1945, soon after the end of the Second World War, nations worldwide decided to change the course of history and took the commitment to work together for peace. The 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki inspired action for disarmament especially among younger generations as Youth Arts New York helped them understand the first-hand experiences of the "hibakusha" individuals who survived this bombing. The event, entitled "Nuclear Weapons Today: From Hiroshima to Nagasaki to the Ban Treaty", opened with a guided tour of artifacts from the bombings held on permanent display in the UN General Assembly Building.

Over five decades later in 2000, the UN Millennium Declaration identified fundamental values which were essential to international relations. The Millennium Development Goals set 8 targets for realizing the values around the world by 2015 which served as the focus for UN work throughout this period. In 2015, the UN expanded its development agenda to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. India has also committed to achieve the ambitious SDGs by 2030.

With diversity as its core, India is fast progressing on a journey that seeks prosperity and well-being for everyone from every culture and language, leaving no one behind. *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, which translates into 'the whole world is my family',

captures this Indian approach towards all aspects of life and development and this is where India's development philosophy intersects with the fundamental principles of the SDGs framework.

Rapid growth (SDG 8) is the key weapon in any country's arsenal to combat poverty. On the one hand, it creates well-paid jobs, which place necessary purchasing power in the hands of households to access food, clothing, housing, education and health. On the other, it brings ever-rising revenues to the government to finance social spending. India has continued its programme of economic reforms to achieve sustained rapid growth. The reforms have included fiscal consolidation, inflation targeting, improved governance all around, accelerated infrastructure development (SDG 9), curbing of corruption (SDG 16), Aadhaar Act (for providing unique identity), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act, Goods and Services Tax, further liberalization of foreign direct investment and closure of sick units in the public sector. As a result, India was the fastest growing major economy in the world. It grew 7.5% during fiscal year 2014-15, 8% during 2015-16 and 7.1% during 2016-17.

Under its Nationally Determined Contributions, India has ambitiously committed to reducing the emissions intensity per unit of GDP by 33% -35% by 2030 relative to its 2005 levels. While targeting economic growth, infrastructure development and industrialisation, the country's war against poverty has become fundamentally focussed on social inclusion and empowerment of the

poor. In the spirit of cooperative federalism, the two levels of the government have joined hands to bring about the change, India needs. While the central government has sponsored schemes to provide employment, connect villages to cities through roads, build houses for the poor and offer education in the states, various sub-groups of Chief Ministers have come forward to give valuable advice to the central government on such important matters as digital payments, skill development and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (Clean India Campaign).

There is compelling evidence that India has achieved, following the economic reforms initiated in 1991, significant reduction in poverty. Poverty has fallen across all economic, social and religious groups nationally and in all states in the post-reform era. Sustained growth (6.2% from 1993-94 to 2003-04 and 8.3% from 2004-05 to 2011-12) has created gainful employment and helped raise wages thereby directly empowering the poor. It has also brought the government an increased volume of revenues enabling it to sustain a high level of social spending and, thus, doubling the direct effect of growth on poverty. Several large-scale anti-poverty programmes have been implemented. The *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act*, for instance, has generated over 2 billion person-days of employment during 2016-17 alone, largely for the disadvantaged sections of society. Additionally, initiatives have been launched for providing

pension and insurance to workers in the unorganised sector, widows and the differently abled. Over 130 million people have accessed life and accident insurance under these programmes. In order to achieve the goal of housing

for all by 2022, direct financial assistance is being extended to poor households.

Further, the *Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana*, the National Livelihoods Mission, is devoted to creating skilled employment for

the poor. The Mission aims to bring one female member each from a large number of poor households in rural areas into Self-Help Groups in a phased manner. This is aligned with the policy of ensuring that 'no one is left behind'. □

UN WOMEN VIRTUAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING REPORT

Denzil Fernandes, Tresa Paul, and Archana Sinha represented Indian Social Institute and participated in the virtual UN event multi-stakeholder hearing on July 21, 2020 that was in preparation of the General Assembly high-level meeting on Beijing+25. As the COVID-19 pandemic aggravates pre-existing inequalities, it was a deliberation on how to accelerate action for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. In this regard multilateral action was suggested for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after its adoption, in addition to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As part of the preparations for the High-Level

Meeting of the General Assembly in accordance with UN GA resolution 73/340, the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), organized and presided over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, to ensure the active participation of multiple stakeholders in the process. The objective of this hearing was to take stock of the outcomes and recommendations of the 25-year review processes, including the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The gender gap in labour force participation has stagnated over the past two decades, and the majority of employed women work in the informal economy. Women and girls are disproportionately

responsible for unpaid care and household work, and women are more likely than men to live in extreme poverty. The moderated dialogue had set the stage for the subsequent panel discussions and brought together a small number of gender equality leaders, including from Government and civil society. Focus was on the challenges and opportunities for accelerating action for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The multi-stakeholder hearing provided an opportunity to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices among different stakeholders, through interactive dialogues, to advance the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. □

Archana Sinha

26TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 2020

26th International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (IDWIP) was celebrated virtually (Zoom application) through a series of webinars held on 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th, and 9th of August 2020. The event was organized under the banner of India Indigenous Peoples, Department of Tribal

Studies, Indian Social Institute, All Delhi Youths Network, and fifteen tribal NGOs of Delhi-NCR. There were 46 resource persons mostly from indigenous communities across the globe including the United Nations, Sami Parliament, and representatives from several international NGOs and Civil

Society Organizations (CSO). On an average, 1,400 national and international participants attended these webinars. The virtual webinar conferences held on different days had distinct themes: -

Day	Date	Topic	Speakers/Resource Persons
Day One	1st August 2020	Indigenous Peoples: Global and Local	Prem Singh Tharu, Silje Karine Muotka, Yon Fernández-de-Larrinoa, Porlal Kharte, Abu Karimu, and Virginius Xaxa
Day Two	2nd August 2020	Indigenous Youth: Fusion of Traditions and Modernity	Niranjan Kumar Kujur, Ashish Birulee, Eugene Soreng, Shikha Mandi, Shashi Panna, Joy Prafful Lakra, Neelam Kerketta, Aruna Tirkey, Puran Prasad Kujur, Sumangal Nag, Mai Thin Yu Mon, Liza Oraon, Shreedhanya Suresh, Harshit Sosan Lakra, Gomati Bodra Hembrom, and Archana Soreng
Day Three	7th August 2020	Role of Indigenous Women in Socio-Cultural Development	Lalita Roshni Lakra, Kruti Chaudhari, Lianboi Vaiphei, Aruna Tirkey, Kirti Nilesh Vartha, Ranjana Pawara, Dayamani Barla, and Hemlata Katara
Day-four	8th August 2020	Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge System	Walter Kandulna, Luke Gabriel Mendes, Mukesh Birua, Ashok Chaudhari, Anabel Benjamin Bara, Prem Singh Tharu, Ajit Ekka, Sunil Balkrishna Parhad, and Mark Annandale
Day-five (Session-one)	9th August 2020	Indigenous Languages and Indigenous Identity	Suresh Jagannadham, Achingliu Kamei, Zephyrinus Baxla, Hari Oraon, Anna Belew, and Jessica Wawoe
Day-five (Session-two)	9th August 2020	Virtual Celebration of the 26th IDWIP 2020	António Guterres, Alexsey Tsykarev, Silje Karine Muotka, Girish Chandra Murmu, Anusuiya Uiquey, Hemant Soreng, Conrad Sangma, Omkar Singh Markam, Padma Shri, Simon Oraon, and Dashmat Hansda

Apart from the above programme, a book draft was released titled "India's Indigenous Peoples: A Journey of Self Reflection on Society, Culture, and Development" inaugurated by Sonajharia Minz, the Vice Chancellor of Sido Kanhu Murmu University

Dumka, Jharkhand. The tribal UPSC achievers Reena Hansdak, Robinson Guria, Akancha Siksha Khalkho, and Shantanu Kumar Singh shared their experiences. Besides, Tribal Survival Stories during COVID-19, and cultural programs were presented. This programme generated awareness

about the indigenous peoples, their struggles, achievements and contributions to human communities and protection of nature, and connected various individuals and communities across India and abroad. □

Anabel Benjamin Bara and Juhi Priyanka Horo

PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE FROM THE ROOTS OF ORIGINAL PEOPLE A JOINT COLLABORATION OF INDO-MEXICAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOR BETTER TOMORROW

An international cross-cultural exchange program was organized between the Indigenous Peoples of India and Mexico, by Jai Jagat 2020 and India Indigenous Peoples on 28th September 2020 over Zoom platform which was telecast live through Youtube and Facebook. The objective of the webinar was to engage

in the sharing of social values, culture, traditions, struggles, accomplishments, lifestyles of indigenous communities of both the countries and to work towards peace and non-violent development. The speakers for the webinar from India were Dr. Vincent Ekka, HoD, Department of Tribal Studies, Indian Social

Institute, New Delhi, Dr. Harshit Sosan Lakra, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, Dr. Anabel Benjamin Bara, Social Scientist, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, Ms. Manju Dungdung, Social Worker and activist, Chhattisgarh and Mr. Ankush Vengurlekar, co-founder of Adivasi Lives Matter. From



Delfina Albañez Arballo

Dr. Vincent Ekka

Paulina Garrido Bonilla

Dr. Harshit Sosan Lakra

Tomás Rojo Valencia

Dr. Benjamin Bara

Gabriel Pacheco Salvador

Manju Dungdung



JAI JAGAT 2020
ON THE MOVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Peace & Nonviolence From the Roots of the Original People

Joint collaboration of Indo-Mexican
Indigenous People for a better tomorrow

Voices from India

5:30pm - 7:30pm IST
7am - 9am Mexico City Time

Voices from Mexico

8pm - 10pm IST
9:30am - 11:30am Mexico City Time
With translation in both Spanish and English

28th Sep'20

Zoom Webinar ID :
817 4337 3966

Password : JAIJAGAT

Facebook live : [JaiJagat2020](#)
For more details : contact@jajagat2020.org

Rubén Albarrán

Guadalupe Duarte Espinoza

Martin Elías Ortega López

Zaira M. López Pérez

Ankush Vengurlekar

Jill Carr-Harris

Sonia Deotto

Nicholas Barla



Mexico the indigenous speakers were Ms. Delfina Albanez Arballo, a traditional singer and dancer, Ms. Paulina Garrido Bonilla, President of 'United We Will Win', Mr. Tomos Rojo Valencia, Technical Advisor of Traditional Authorities of Yakee Tribes, Mr. Gabriel Pacheco Salvador, President of Plus Award, Mr. Martin Elías Ortega Lopez, Researcher and documenter of indigenous languages, Mr. Ruben

Albarran, composer, singer and music producer, and Mr. David Alejandro Rubio, Advocate on Land and Environmental Rights.

Indigenous peoples from both countries found that their ways of living, thought patterns, struggles, and traditional values were the same. The deliberation by the resource persons brought them closer in brotherhood and unity. It was the first initiative to

bring indigenous communities from two countries under one roof. From India, the coordinator was Advocate Nicholas Barla and from Mexico Ms. Sonia Deotto. Ms. Zaira M. Lopez Perez and Ms. Guadalupe Duarte Espinoza translated the English speeches to Spanish and vice-versa. This was a good beginning for international cooperation among indigenous communities across countries. □

[Anabel Benjamin Bara](#)

CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (UNDRIP)

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is an international instrument adopted by the United Nations on September 13, 2007, to enshrine (according to Article 43) the rights that "constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world." The UNDRIP

protects collective rights that may not be addressed in other human rights charters that emphasize individual rights, and it also safeguards the individual rights of Indigenous peoples. The Declaration is the product of almost 25 years of deliberation by U.N. member states and Indigenous groups.

A five-day virtual celebration

cum observation was held by the Indigenous Peoples of India from 9th to 13th September 2020 across India. The program was jointly organized by the India Indigenous Peoples, Adivasi Ekta Parishad, Adivasi Samanway Manch Bharat, and Adivasi Adhikar Manch in collaboration with several tribal NGOs from states across the country. The programs were



conducted through Google meet platform which was broadcast live through YouTube and Facebook.

This year in India it was celebrated as **'The Day of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.'** From 9th to 11th September 2020, tribals celebrated and observed this day at various states, districts, blocks and Gram Sabhas. The side activities that took place were tree plantations, awareness campaigns, signature campaigns, showcasing of banners and posters, Press Conferences and submitting memorandums. On 12th and 13th September 2020, international webinars were organized which were attended by the indigenous communities and

others across India and abroad. The resource persons for 12th September 2020 were Kenneth Deer, Andrea Carmen, and Virginius Xaxa. While addressing the virtual audiences, the speakers emphasized on the unity of different tribal communities to claim indigenous rights. Unity between the indigenous peoples was the key to achieve UNDRIP. The resource persons for 13th September 2020 were Mrs. Anusuiya Ukey, the Governor of Chhattisgarh and former Vice-Chairperson National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Ravi Thakur, former Vice-Chairperson National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and former MLA of Lahaul and

Spiti, Himachal Pradesh; Omkar Singh Markam, former Tribal Welfare Minister, Madhya Pradesh; Shomona Khanna, eminent lawyer in the Supreme Court, Mukesh Birua, and Porlal Kharte, both social activists from Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

The five-day celebration-cum-observation was very successful, and the tribals were able to connect on a massive scale through social platforms. Much knowledge, awareness, and information were shared through this program, and it sensitized the tribal communities towards their indigenous rights across India. □

Anabel Benjamin Bara and Juhi Priyanka Horo

LOYOLA DAY CELEBRATION



The Annual St. Ignatius of Loyola Day was celebrated on 30th July 2020 with great enthusiasm at ISI ground floor auditorium. We had as a special guest, Fr. Xavier Vedam, the secretary of AIACHE, Delhi, to grace this occasion with all the Jesuit Fathers present. The staff members of ISI and Conference Development Office (CDO) were also present. Taking care of the present situation, we followed all the norms and guidelines of social distancing

during the programme.

The programme was started by observing two minutes silence remembering the corona warriors who lost their lives during COVID-19 pandemic around the world and also prayed for those who are recouping with this deadly virus.

The next segment was the felicitation of all the Jesuit fathers by presenting them greeting cards on behalf of staff members. These beautiful cards were prepared by Mr. Ruben Minj followed by our traditional auspicious lighting the lamp as a tribute to St. Ignatius of Loyola by three Fathers and two senior staff members.

After lighting the lamp ceremony, the Executive Director of the Institute, Dr. Denzil Fernandes SJ, welcomed the

gathering formally.

A documentary film in Hindi on the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola was screened on the occasion. After that one of our senior staff members, Mr. Rajeev Kapoor, shared his personal experience on "How I came to know about St. Ignatius of Loyola and what values I learnt from the life of St. Ignatius".

Then, Dr. Vincent Ekka SJ, gave the message on the life of St. Ignatius based on a story with a moral on "Seeking God in all Things".

Next, Dr. Paul D'Souza, SJ, introduced his book on "*Corona Crisis: Perception and Practices: A Humanitarian Crisis and a Humanitarian Response*" where he narrated the journey of the book

from its conception till its e-book form. The significance of this e-book is that the entire research was done online. This e-book was inaugurated online by Fr. Xavier Vedam and the uploaded version was displayed to the staff.

Then, Fr. Siji Chacko SJ, the Director of Conference Development Office (CDO), made a presentation on "JCSA response to COVID-19 Pandemic". In his presentation he emphasised, how JCSA contributed to the needy in various ways during the pandemic.

Finally, there was the rendition of the Ignatian March "Noble Knight". The programmes concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Dilip Kumar followed by refreshments. □

Satya Srinivasan

SUCCESS STORY

Two brothers parted ways after partition of their ancestral property in a village in Uttar Pradesh. After their death, their children accused each other of unfair division of land among them. The dispute between the two families intensified into physical fights and verbal exchanges. While harvesting in 2018, both the families fought fiercely with each other and as a result some of them were injured. On filing FIR, some of them were arrested and released on bail later. As the hearing of the cases began, both the families spent a fortune on litigation. Gradually, their financial position hit rock bottom affecting the education of their children. The entire village was also divided, and peace was a distant reality.

In a 'Peace Club Meeting' the matter was discussed to find an amicable solution. Peace

PEACE DAWNS WITH JUSTICE

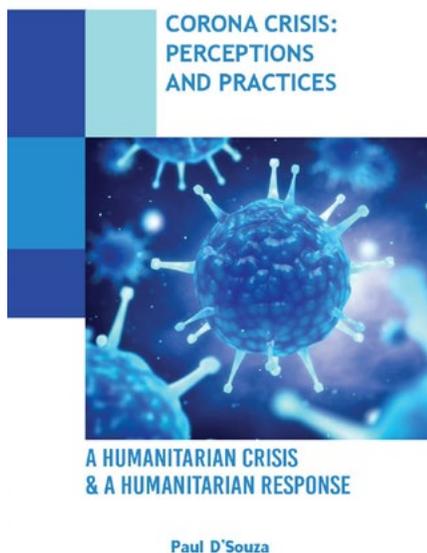


workers visited conflicting families separately several times to convince them about the ill-effects of their dispute. Gradually, both families realized that peace is possible through mutual dialogue. In the presence of the elders, on 13 June 2020, the land was re-measured to be re-allocated. A family settlement

was reached and the same was worded on a stamp paper by the peace workers. Necessary parties signed it and read it aloud. Both the families as well as villagers appreciated the initiative of Peace Club Members. Both the families began to live peacefully. □

Pascal Tirkey

CORONA CRISIS: PERCEPTIONS AND PRACTICES: A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS & A HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) describes the COVID-19 pandemic as the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War II. But COVID-19 is much more than a health crisis. Over the last few months, the pandemic has caused global social and economic disruptions. The present situation arising out of COVID-19 has given rise to many perspectives and views regarding the corona crisis and how different sections have perceived and responded to the same in their respective points of view.

An online survey on 'Corona Crisis: Perceptions and Practices' was undertaken between May

3 to May 17, 2020, the lockdown phase III. The main objective of this research was to present a humanitarian perspective on the corona crisis. The book 'Corona Crisis: Perceptions and Practices' published by Indian Social Institute, documents how humanitarian organizations in India perceived, understood, and responded to the crisis emerging due to coronavirus in the given situation, up to lockdown phase III across India. It has also made an effort to comprehend a way forward suggested by different stakeholders, especially the humanitarian organizations with regards concerted actions in their attempt to face the crisis in the coming days. □ **Paul D'Souza**

BOOK POST

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