

# Civil Society 20 (C20) Working Group

## DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, MUTUAL RESPECT

Policy Recommendation For C20 India Presidency 2023







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# Foreword



Namaste!!

Greetings from India and the working group Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect.

India one of the ancient continuously living civilizations in the globe is extremely diverse and has for centuries celebrated this diversity through inclusion and mutual respect. As she celebrates her G20 presidency this year she is on a quest to reveal her ancient philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, One Earth One Family based on the principle of Oneness.

The working group Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect (DIMR) through this document has tried to bring out the voice of the people around the globe to celebrate diversity and make this planet a better place to live.

The DIMR group declares that this document, as well as any data included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

## Working Group Coordinators

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## C20 INCEPTION MEETING AT NAGPUR 20 & 21 MARCH 2023



Representatives of Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect participated in the Civil20 Inception Meeting at Nagpur where the Civil Society Organisations got together to discuss the 14 different themes presented by the respective Working Groups in these two days. Below is given the schedule of the meeting

### **Day 1: 20 March, 2023**

In the forenoon the Plenary Session I on Balancing Development with Environment was held, covering Working Groups on - Integrated Holistic Health: Mind, Body, and Environment; Sustainable & Resilient Communities: Climate, Environment, and Net Zero Targets; Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE); and Revival of Rivers & Water Management. The Chair for this session was Shri Satyananda Mishra, Former Chief Information Commissioner, India and the Invited Speakers were - Dr. Andy Carmone, Dr. Merle de Kreuk, Shri Jadav Payeng & Smt.

Indira Khurana. Besides them the WG Coordinators viz., Dr Priya Nair, Dr Maneesha Sudheer, Dr Gajanand Dange and Smt. Vasuki Kalyanasundaram also spoke.

In the afternoon the Inaugural Ceremony was held with Mata Amritanandmayi on the Chair. The Speakers for this Inaugural Session were - Shri Kailash Satyarthi, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Ahmad Maftuchan, Alessandra Nilo, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Amb. Vijay Nambiar and Su. Nivedita R Bhide.

### **Day 2: 21 March, 2023**

In the forenoon the Plenary Session II on Civil Society Organisations and Promotion of Human Values was held covering Working Groups on - Sewa-Sense of Service, Philanthropy and Volunteerism; Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - World is One Family; Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect; Human Rights as Human Values. The Chair for this session was



Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary, Sewa International and the Invited Speakers were - Dr. Nasima Hurzuk, Swami Paramatmananda and Shri Owain James. Besides them the WG Coordinators viz., Shri Santosh Gupta, Dr. Vikrant Tomar, Dr. Joram Begi and Dr. Durganand Jha also spoke.

In the forenoon the Plenary Session III on Role of Civil Society in Promoting Human Development was held covering Working Groups on - Gender Equality and Disability (GED); SDG 16+ and Promoting Civic Space; Participative Democracy for Governance and Development. The Chair for this session was Su. Nivedita R Bhide, Vice-President, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari and Steering Committee member, C20 India, the Invited Speakers were - Smt. Gabriella Wright, Shri Bala Subramaniam and Smt. Meg Jones. Besides them the WG Coordinators viz., Prof. Bhavani Rao, Nidhi Goyal, Dr. Basavraju R Shreshta and Dr. Jyotsna Mohan also spoke.

In the afternoon the Plenary Session IV on Civil Society Organisations as Drivers of Innovation and Technology was held covering Working Groups on - Technology, Security, and Transparency; Preservation and Conservation of Traditional Arts, Crafts and Culture; Traditional and Innovative Ways of Livelihood and Employment; Education and Digital Transformation; Special Committee on Finance Issues. The Chair for this session was Amb. Vijay Nambiar, Sherpa, C20 2023 and the Invited Speakers were - Smt. Alison Lynn Richards, Smt. Jaya Jaitly, Smt. Veronika Soboleva and Smt. Binny Buchori. Besides

them the Working Group Coordinators viz., Dr KrishnaShri Achuthan, Smt. Kshipra Shukla, Dr. Prema Nedungadi and Smt. Deepti George also spoke.

The Valedictory Session was chaired by Amb. Vijay Nambiar and the Speakers were Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and Amb. Abhay Thakur.





## Concept note: Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect



Nature has conferred every being a unique, but multifaceted identity. This uniqueness allows for perpetual transmutation of energy, leading to diversity. Therefore, diversity is a natural phenomenon, be it in case of plants, animals, geographical features, the solar system, galaxies etc. It is not possible to sustain life without diversity. Diversity is unavoidable, but when its underlying connections are understood, it leads to balance and harmony. In ancient Indian wisdom and many other civilizations, it was always enunciated to see the One that manifests in all. It is said 'ekam sat viparah bahudhah vadanti' – truth is one but it manifests in various forms. The whole universe is a manifestation of the divinity, and is therefore, interconnected, inter-related and interdependent. This interconnectedness, interrelatedness and interdependence of existence is increasingly being realized in science (Turning Point by Dr. Fritjof Capra), ecology and cellular biology (Biology of Belief by Lipton H Bruce).

Ancient Indian wisdom articulates each individual as 'amritasya putrah' - expression of

Divine. Every human being is essentially good and has inherent knowledge which is today acknowledged in educational philosophy (Montessori education philosophy). The focus of all disciplining and moulding, be it through laws and regulations or social practices and cultural values is to bring out this essential goodness, knowledge within a person. Its purpose is also to strengthen the connections that a human being has to his family, locality, community, society, culture and nature because the whole universe is interconnected, interrelated and interdependent (Web of Life by Fritjof Capra). Nature intends for nurturing and protection of its creation through diverse relationships, but they cannot be reduced to perfunctory stand alone approach since all parts are an integrated whole.

Thus, diversity is expanded and expressed through various systems of life of the different societies to address the complexities, needs and the uniqueness of the human mind. This transcends beyond the biological boundaries of the body, exemplified as diversity of faith, religions, and ways of life,



traditions, knowledge systems, ideologies, philosophies, languages, color, gender, behaviors, ideas, concepts, methods for solving complex issues, creating economic orders and methods for inculcation of civilizational values. Diversity is not just a theory of sustainability created in contemporary times, but is the ultimate truth of nature and existence of man. The human civilization and its sustainability in the world depend on understanding and accepting this diversity based on the Oneness of existence, and therefore mutually respecting each one's right to live, to express and to practice his civilizational values. Unless oneness of the existence is internalized, the acceptance of diversity with mutual respect is not possible. With more centralization of political power, unfortunately, diversity has been seen as a hurdle to a pliable homogenized existence. Therefore, it became reason to adopt artificial, external regulations in the quest of uniformity

fueled by sense of supremacy and individualism. The world has been victim of rampant colonization in the past centuries by those who were indoctrinated with the ideas of race supremacy with exclusive claims to truth and cultural chauvinism. The phase of over-centralization and combative imposition of thoughts, faiths which were exclusive have over time destroyed numerous traditions, languages, and denied the different identities of the people (whether of creed, colour, gender or faith); impoverishing both human life and human civilization.

As bio-diversity enriches, balances and protects nature, similarly, diversity of traditions, of languages, of ways of invoking the divine, of ways to deepen inner being enrich human life and helps it to evolve further. The forceful attempts of wiping out of diversity or neglecting those who are different ushers in artificialities of life and non-





sustainable development. Oppression by a few in the chase of uniformity violates human rights in various ways and causes deep-rooted maladies affecting the very relationship between man and his environment. In the process of 'development' and hurry to make the world uniform, immaturity in forcing one's understanding on others has led many communities to be left behind. Some were exploited and derided, with the environment being simultaneously denuded. Many have argued that some order is a prerequisite for a conflict-free human society, that uniformity of systems, traditions, religion, methods of development is required.

focus has led to diversity and inclusion being limited to gender orientation or to some economic benefits for the left behind communities. The over-commercialization and politicization of the electoral process has further led to exclusion and to animosity. Many individuals' rights like right to practice one's traditions, right to live as the part of the family, community and environment and not just as individuals, and the rights of the communities to adopt methods as per their cultural ethos are forcefully dismissed.

For rights of all to be taken into account, a more inward, deeper and say a spiritual



And that uniformity needs to be brought in by an artificial regulation, even through imposition and exclusiveness. But history tells us that it is not true, and it more often leads to clashes, and refusal of right to live with dignity.

Therefore, political correctness today has brought in much-needed emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion, with the intention of giving space to those neglected, and helping those who were left behind with various concessions and legal support at the government level. But over the period, this

approach is required. Understanding of oneness with an open mind is required. In short, mutual respect is required. That mandates acknowledging and respecting the right to life for all diverse entities including right to live with dignity, right to be heard, right to follow one's traditions and right to practice one's beliefs, right to have access to all opportunities for well-being and right to be part of the development process. It is the responsibility of the respective governments and various power centers to ensure the above rights remain incontrovertible. Since last few years, C20 has worked unflinchingly to



take this agenda at individual level to the governments of G20. But need is also to recognize the diversity and inclusion at the societal level in a nation, and also the inclusion of diverse paths and perspectives at the international and the global level. DEI applied partially and in excess is leading to exclusion.

therefore the topic chosen is Diversity, inclusion, mutual respect.



### How DEI Is Supplanting Truth as the Mission of American Universities

An obsession with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion threatens students, professors, and the very

Many persons in the West worried about the harmful effects of DEI and are working to course correct it.

The C-20 working group of 'Diversity, Inclusion and Mutual Respect', would be a platform of the stakeholders, organizations, individuals, civil societies who are working to preserve this uniqueness of the world, besides giving a voice to the traditional communities in the remotest parts of India and other communities of the world who have been practicing sustainable development with unique mechanisms suiting their environmental, material, intellectual and spiritual needs. The C20 group will further explore and enunciate on the need to acknowledge, respect, adopt and recommend diverse approaches for solving following issues.



Thus, more in-depth and multidimensional discussion of the topic 'Diversity, Equity, Inclusion' and enhancing its application that was initially intended upon, needs to be discussed and debated. If inclusion is to be effective, then equity is inherent in it,

1. Diversity and inclusion of those who are born in unfortunate circumstances or are left behind in the development process. This will also include people with physical and mental disabilities, or by birth intersex persons, economically backward persons, etc.
2. Persons who do not fall into the binaries of male and female or those who are



transgenders etc. need to live with respect in society. Accordingly, this issue is part of international mainstream discourse and many measures are being adopted. But there is also unwarranted commercialization that is going to extremes with even children undergoing irreversible surgeries to change their bodies.

This issue needs to be discussed, so that the rights of the children for a healthy atmosphere to grow are protected. An individual has many identities, but focusing only on the gender identity and disregarding all other identities is harmful. We should not have the short-termism approach of physical/ sexual enjoyment alone. We need to take a long-term view that protects family and society, along with material and spiritual well-being of human beings.

**3.** Mutual respect needs to be accorded towards faith and cultural traditions of communities that were derided till now as backward, outdated and worse still as false and evil. Unfortunately, till recently even UN predominantly shared this world-view: In 1951, the United Nations passed a resolution that had far-reaching consequences.

It said, 'There is a sense in which rapid economic progress is impossible without painful adjustments. Ancient philosophies have to be scrapped; old social institutions have to disintegrate; bonds of caste, creed and race have to burst; and large numbers

of persons who cannot keep up with progress have to have their expectations of a comfortable life frustrated. Very few communities are willing to pay the full price of economic progress.' (United Nations, 1951, p.15. <http://assets.press.princeton.edu/chapters/s9564.pdf>)

On the basis of this resolution a lot of initiatives—including research and grassroot level activism—were prescribed to make governments especially of Third World countries “to scrap ancient philosophies” and for “old social institutions to disintegrate” all towards that one goal: ‘rapid economic progress’. The amount of violence unleashed—tangible and intangible—and irrevocable damage caused, can barely be imagined, leave alone repaired. It took more than sixty years for the United Nations to acknowledge this as below, ‘We consider that in the face of mounting challenges such as population growth, urbanization, environmental degradation, disasters, climate change, increasing inequalities and persisting poverty, there is an urgent need for new approaches.... which emphasize harmony among peoples and between humans and nature, equity, dignity, well-being and sustainability.

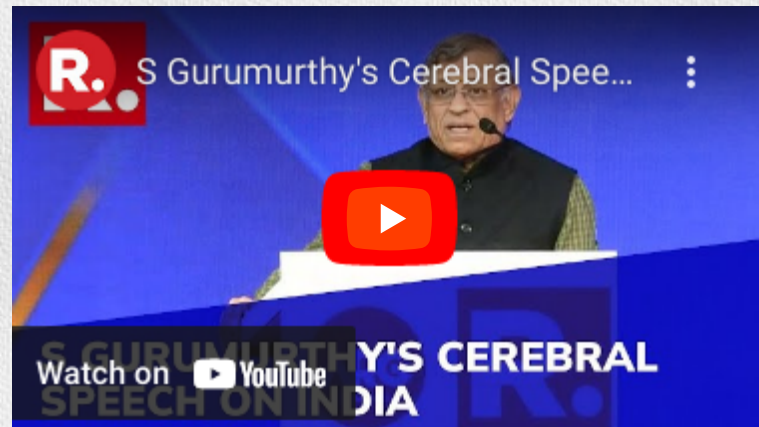
These new approaches should fully acknowledge the role of culture as a system of values and a resource and framework to build truly sustainable development... We recognize that one size does not fit all and that different cultural



perspectives will result in different paths to development.

At the same time, we embrace an understanding of culture that is open, evolving and strongly framed within a rights based approach and the respect for diversity, the free access to which enables individuals “to live and be what they choose”, thus enhancing their opportunities and human capabilities while promoting mutual understanding and exchange among peoples. (The Hangzhou Declaration, “Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies” May 2013). But what is required is not only acknowledging the role of cultural values but also to proactively promote and protect the traditional communities. Or in other words to protect the cultural faith and traditions of the tribal and other disadvantaged communities.

4. Respecting native traditions all over the world and applying principles of diversity, inclusion and mutual respect is required. In America, Europe and Africa, the deadly combination of imperialism, commercialism, and exclusive religious and political ideologies have driven various native traditions to the wall that some have almost become extinct. But these traditions (including Indian traditions) have prominently contributed to the protection of the environment and bio-diversity by their very practices. They should be supported and given the place and prominence in international forums.



This would help in protecting various languages, skills, native knowledge traditions, various ways of invoking the Divine etc., ultimately thus enriching the human society. This sub-theme would further be explained three sub-themes

- Inclusion, recognition and promotion of the contribution of environmentally-conscious cultures
- Bringing into the mainstream marginalized and economically weaker section
- Networking and exchange among native and traditional communities the world over to support them in the process of development
- Revitalization of the excluded cultures and societies
- As the whole world is technologically connected, the concept of minority cannot be limited to a nation. The need is to discuss and define the minority issue from global view point.

Respecting the methods adopted by various countries, cultures, and communities to solve their problems and interpret terms like women empowerment human rights etc. in light of their





traditions. Today, the discourse on human rights has got tilted and thus, the right of the terrorists or rapists are given more weightage than the right of dignity and right to life of the victims. A course correction is required. Each country has its own way of dealing with the human rights issue based on its cultural tradition. There should not be a uniform application (or rather prescription) of human rights and other such issues. For example, at present the human right issue looks upon human being only as an individual and does not take into account his connection and responsibility towards his family, society, nature etc. Many non-western societies even today are relation-based and not contract based. Thus, there has to be respect towards diverse ways of dealing of human rights issues by various civilizations. The diverse approach to development was recognized by the leaders of G20 for the first time in 2005.

The 2005 G20 communique said We recognized there is no uniform development approach that fits all countries. Each country should be able to choose the development approaches and policies that best suit its specific characteristics, while benefiting from their accumulated experience in policy making over the last decades, including the importance of strong macroeconomic policies for sustained growth. The C20 group will explore and enunciate on the need to acknowledge, respect, adopt and recommend diverse approaches for solving various issues. There cannot be a one size fit all model for handling all challenges. By bringing together stakeholders from across the globe, the working group can promote the need for flexibility and innovation taking into account local needs, culture, and resources.



## Outreach Programmes : C20 Diversity Inclusion Mutual Respect- Chaupals



### Background (offline)

- The working group Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect has organized twenty-two Chaupals worldwide in offline mode.
- Chaupals which are a traditional way of organizing meetings in India, were democratic and proved to be a multidimensional knowledge sharing platform for civil society organizations. The Chaupals provided a platform to the various stakeholders, organizations, individuals, and civil societies who are working on the ground and making significant contributions to preserve the uniqueness of this world, providing a voice to marginalized communities in the remotest parts of the world by preserving

traditional practices that are sustainable as well as sustaining the holistic needs of the community members. The policy dialogues offered a platform to these different groups and individuals recommend diverse solution for solving various of the world community. The conference ensured the delivery of all recommendations to G20 for policymaking and pursuance of the same.

- Three hundred and fifty-one NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) participated in these offline policy dialogues which were extremely inclusive irrespective of any discrimination of gender, religion, affiliations etc.





# CHAUPALS

Sl No.	Date	Location	Organisation & Institution	Total Organisations Participated	Total Participants	Indian Delegates	Foreign Delegates
1	19th Jan	Brahmapur, Orisha	Vivekananda Kendra Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga and Management	21	37	37	0
2	22nd Jan	Bhubaneshwar, Odisha	Vivekananda Kendra Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga and Management	10	12	12	0
3	1st Feb	University Of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari		35	35	0
4	27th March	Ranchi, Jharkhand	Vivekananda Kendra Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga and Management	30	42	42	0
5	2nd April	Parvathipuram, Jattu Ashramam, Andhra Pradesh	Vivekananda Kendra Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga and Management	7	26	26	0
6	12th April	Tripura University, Tripura	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Tripura University & Maharaja Bir Bikram University	30	200	200	0
7	12th April	Assam University, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Assam University	60	178	178	0
8	13th April	Delhi	International Center For Cultural Studies	21	150	150	0
9	22nd April	Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture- Arunachal Chapter	53	220	220	0
10	22nd & 23rd April	Neri, Himachal Pradesh	International Center For Cultural Studies, ICHR, Department of History & Geography, Himachal University	33	250	250	0
11	24th April	Pune, Maharashtra	Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari	3	8	8	0
12	25th April	Pune, Maharashtra	Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari	6	15	15	0
13	27th April	Thane, Maharashtra	Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari	47	350	350	0
14	27th April	Delhi	Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari	51	250	250	0
15	5th May	Cuttack, Orisha	Vivekananda Kendra Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga and Management	8	16	16	0
16	6th May	Badlapur, Maharashtra	Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari	33	150	150	0
17	6th May	Bilaspur, Chattisgarh	International Center For Cultural Studies, Atal Bihari Vajpayee University	12	60 (offline)+ 30 (online)= 90		Lithuania-1, (Foreign participants) UK-1 USA-1 South Africa-1



18	17th May	Ranchi, Jharkhand	Rashtriya Seva Bharati, International Center For Cultural Studies	20	125	125	0
19	28th May	Guwahati, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Dept. of Indigenous and Tribal Faith and Culture, Govt Of Assam.	16	112	112	0
20	8th & 9th June	Narayanpur, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Deori Sahitya Sabha	6	152	152	0
21	27th May	Goa	International Center For Cultural Studies, Maharishi Adyatmik Vishwavidyalaya, Scientific Spiritual Research Foundation Goa	48	350	347	3
22	16th July	Lucknow	Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari	15	160	160	0

Various organizations, universities and governments collaborated for the same like the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura etc.

- The chaupals were organized in 12 states of India including 3 states of Northeast India like Assam, Arunachal and Tripura.

2328 people participated in the events offline and 843 delegates participated via webinars or online mode.

- One event was in a hybrid mode from Bilaspur, Chattisgarh India where 60 delegates participated out of which 30 were online. 4 delegates were from abroad like Lithuania, United Kingdom, USA and Spain.



## Some Major Chaupals

### Silchar, Barak Valley, Assam, India

VIVEKANANDA KENDRA INSTITUTE OF CULTURE  
in collaboration with  
ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR  
**Welcomes**  
Civil society organisations For C20 consultation  
**Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect**  
11:30am onwards, Wednesday, April 12, 2023  
Bipin Paul Auditorium, Assam University, Silchar

twitter.com/vkicne facebook.com/vkicne linkedin.com/vkic youtube.com/vkic www.vkic.org

- Date:12th April 2023
- Venue: Assam University, Silchar
- No of organizations participated (NGO/CSO)-32
- No of participants-178
- Foreign Nationals-Nil

#### Highlights

A consultation meet was organized by Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture in collaboration with Assam University, Silchar and National Service Scheme, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of India on 12th April 2023 at Bipin Chandra Paul Seminar Hall, Assam University Silchar. Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant Vice Chancellor, Assam University Silchar delivered the key note address. Dr Parimal Chandra Bhattacharjee, Director, Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture

outlined the purpose of the event. Dr Bhattacharya said "The discussion is based on the theme Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect. Members of the civil society organizations are requested to share about the Work of the Organization, udaharans or best practices of change and Policy Recommendations."

Prof. M Gangabhushan, Department of Social Work and NSS coordinator, Assam University Silchar, moderated the session.



Sri Gangabhusan underlined the basics of theme and importance of India's presidency of G20. He further explained the importance of

the Civil Societies to deal with global problems and their role to make this planet a better place.

**Some recommendations have been listed below along with organizations profile:**

## **NAME OF THE ORGANISATION: Youths Against Social Evils ( YASE)**

**Representative:** Sanjeev Roy

**Organization Profile:** YASE was established in the year 2010 to promote unity in diversity, brotherhood and oneness among different sections of people in the society.

- Healthcare: YASE have been working since 2010 with Lions Club Silchar for Cataract treatment. They have organized 40 cataract detection camps with Lions Eye Hospital, Silchar . With the help of Indian Red Cross Society YASE have conducted 1070 cataract eye operations, and 3132 free Spectacle donations. Alongside, YASE has organized 8 mega eye camps and have treated 2010 people. YASE have organized 140 heart checkups for old women.
- Education: YASE have been financially supporting poor students for quality education.
- Literature and Cultural Sector: From 2018, YASE have been awarding Poets and Writers of Barak Valley with 'Chaabi Gupta Smriti Puraskar' Poetry Award every year. YASE has been awarding 'Partha Chanda Smriti Puraskar' to teachers of Barak Valley in memory of Partha Chanda a renowned teacher from Barak Valley.

### **Recommendations**

G20 countries should establish research centres for the study of diverse indigenous communities to find solutions from traditional wisdom of indigenous/traditional communities, solving complex global problems.

## **NAME OF THE ORGANISATION: Sammilito Loko Manch, Silchar**

**Representative:** Dr. Anup Roy

**Organization Profile:** Sammilito Loko Manch was established in the year 1915 and it is devoted towards the preservice and upliftment of the loko sanskriti (indigenous culture) of Barak Valley. It promotes musical genres like folk, cultural, regional music streams including *Dhamail*.

**Udharans/Best Practices:** Sammilito Lok Manch has interviewed 150 musicians from regional levels and brought them to Silchar in order to support and recognise them financially which is done voluntarily.



**Recommendations:**

All governments in the world must have departments to promote indigenous faith and culture.

**NAME OF THE ORGANISATION: Lifeline Forever Foundation**

**Representative:** Pallabita Sharma

**Organization Profile:** This organization was founded in 2020. It works primarily for voluntary blood donation. The procedure for collecting blood in case of emergencies is tedious and difficult for people from backward or poor communities, therefore LFF help them to collect blood at the earliest. They also cater to thalassemia patients by adopting 40 children and donating 2 units of blood every month. There was a donation around 2000-2500 units of blood. During covid, they have worked 24/7 in not only medical aid but also mental counselling and food delivery, checkups on patients admitted. They have also cremated bodies during Covid 19 outbreak.

**Udharans/Best Practices:** Once they were called in lieu of a case where parents tried to sell their older boy child in order to afford treatment for their younger daughter. They rescued the boy and placed him in a foster care home where he is safe and sound.

**Recommendations:**

HIV infected children and adults should be provided with timely medical support especially in remote villages and inaccessible areas.

**NAME OF THE ORGANISATION: Saksham**

**Representative:** Mithun Roy

**Organization Profile:** Working in the field of Disability and also work with Transgenders and transsexual issues. They work in inclusivity for all and equality for all. They have helped ensure One India, One Disability card to the 53000 people, they have helped.

**Udharans/Best Practices:** Conducted skill development programmes in Ghungoor village for 153 thalassaemic children and products made by the children are now sold on e-commerce platforms like flipkart.

**Recommendations:**

- Government should provide hostels/shelters for intersex children who are generally discarded by families.
- Rehabilitation training: Educational curriculum at school level should include inputs about different types of disabilities and their management. For example - Medical education should be





accommodating the basics of early interventions for persons with disabilities and rehabilitation services.

The policy dialogue was summarized and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Bibhash Deb, Saha Sanchalak, Vivekananda Kendra Barak Vibhag and former Registrar, Assam University Silchar. A short video of the event was also released.



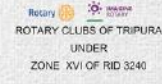
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# Civil Society Policy Dialogue, Tripura



## VIVEKANANDA KENDRA INSTITUTE OF CULTURE

in collaboration with

## TRIPURA UNIVERSITY, AGARTALA

Civil Society Policy Dialogue

on

## Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect

Chief Guest

**Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha**

Honorable Chief Minister, Tripura

Moderator

**Sri Jishnu Dev Varma**

Former Deputy Chief Minister, Tripura

Guest of Honour

**Sri Ram Prasad Paul**

Deputy Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly

11:00 AM onwards | Friday, May 12, 2023

Seminar Hall-2, Building No. 11, Tripura University, Agartala

### Partners :

Jamatia HODA, Tripura

Maharaja Bir Bikram University

### Knowledge Partner :

North Eastern Training, Research And Advocacy

Foundation

### Sponsors :

Rotary Clubs of Tripura

Under  
Zone XVI of RID 3240

Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission

**Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture**, Guwahati, in collaboration with the **Tripura University**, organised a **Civil Society 20 Policy Dialogue**, on 12th May, 2023 at Seminar Hall 2, Building Number 11, Tripura University, Agartala, under the theme **Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect** (DIMR). The programme was supported by Partners Jamatia Hoda and Maharaja Bir Bikram University, Knowledge Partner by North East Training Research and Advocacy Foundation and sponsors were Rotary Clubs of Tripura, Zone XVI, RID 3240 and Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission.

**Mannaneya Jishnu Dev Varma**, Former Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura was the moderator of the consultation programme and **Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain**, Honourable Vice Chancellor of Tripura University, **Prof. Satyadeo Poddar**, Honourable Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Bir Bikram University, and **Dr. Joram Begi**, National Co Ordinator of the C20 Working Group, Diversity, Inclusion Mutual Respect, Chairman, Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture were present.

The Keynote speech was delivered by Mannaneya Jishnu Dev Varma, Former Deputy





Chief Minister of Tripura. Sri Varma said, "The world must protect, preserve and promote indigenous faith and culture in all aspects of food, lifestyle, language etc and there should be a separate government department dedicated for the same." Dr Joram Begi National Co Ordinator of the C20 Working Group, Diversity, Inclusion Mutual Respect and Chairman Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture who appealed all the civil society organizations to come up with their recommendations for a world where Diversity can be preserved through inclusion and mutual respect. 30 Civil society organisations and 200 people participated in the discussion.

### Recommendations

- Research and Documentation of indigenous culture is utmost necessary covering both change and continuity and to save the unique cultural elements of the communities of the world. Documentation of the traditional knowledge is important for the posterity. Besides laws for the communities must be enacted after suggestions with the community Chiefs and its Elders. - **(Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain, Honourable Vice Chancellor of Tripura University, India)**

- Governments must work on glorifying, showcasing and educating the rich history of the local indigenous culture and leaders. Sacred places of worship and archeologically important sites of indigenous faiths particularly the sacred groves must be protected and Temples built by the kings of indigenous communities to be decontrolled from government occupation and handed over to the apex body of the indigenous communities.- **(Prof. Satyadeo Poddar, Honourable Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Bir Bikram University, Tripura, India)**
- The Land rights of the indigenous people should be protected and decisions regarding the ownership of land should be as per the customary law of the respective community. Communities living in areas wherein natural resources are found must be consulted, involved and permissions must be sought before extraction of natural resources- **(Shri Diptanu Debbarma, Office Secretary, Tripura Kshatriya Samaj & President, Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI), Tripura Chapter, India).**





- Many indigenous communities are practicing herbal medicine using various plants and herbs found in the forests. This has helped people for centuries. Proper documentation of various formulations must be carried out by government and agencies. The practitioners must be recognized and rewarded. In case any of their formula or plant extracts are used in modern medicines, due credits both in shares, royalties and other financial rewards must be given in proportion to Intellectual Property Rights.- (Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, Honourable Former Deputy Chief Minister, Tripura India).

### VKIC holds 'Civil Society 20 Policy Dialogue' at TU

**Observer Reporter**  
**Agartala:** May 15, Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture (VKIC), Guwahati, in collaboration with the Tripura University, Agartala organised the 'Civil Society 20 Policy Dialogue' on May 12 last at Tripura University under the theme Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect (DIMR).  
 The programme was supported by Jamatia Hoda and Maharaja Bir Bikram University and sponsors were Rotary Clubs of Tripura Zone XVI, RID 3240 and Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission, Government of Tripura, North East Training Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRA) was knowledge partner.  
 Former Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Varma inaugurated the programme in presence of TU's VC Prof Ganga Prasad Prastain, MBBU's VC Prof Sayadeo Poddar and National Coordinator, Working Group, DIMR also the Chairman of Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture Dr Joram Begi.  
 While introducing the theme, the Chairman of VKIC explained about the prospects under which the

Consultations have been taking place and about how the 20 group explores and enunciate on the need to acknowledge, respect, adopt and recommended diverse approaches for solving various issues and also how by bringing together stakeholders the 'Civil Society 20 and move with diverse approaches for solving diverse social issues. Jishnu Dev Varma mentioned about the traditional culture of Tripura. How the ancient culture of the state and the Royal families of Tripura were inherently following their own culture unless certain influences tended to wipe out the cultural aspects of the state. But it is the people who can revive that by practicing their own culture.  
 The deliberation of the VC of MBBU mentioned the changes that a society goes through over the ages with respect to various ideologies, but the aspects regarding the basic needs of the society should not be compromised.  
 The VC of Tripura University, who presided over the programme, concluded the first session thanking the dignitaries for

their presence and hoped the programme to be successful. The consultation session was introduced by the Local co-ordinator of the programme, Dr. Rajesh Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, CSSEIP, Tripura University and moderated by Jishnu Dev Varma. Mohit Lal Jamatia, President, Baba Garis Mission (BGM), represented Jamatia Hoda and discussed different activities taken by the organization for the betterment of the tribal society. Dr. Jayanta Choudhury, General Secretary of NETRA Foundation, presented their involvement in Localisation of SDGs and in G20 programmes in North East. Dr. Choudhury also advocated for collaboration, cooperation and convergence of efforts among the civil society organizations of North East India. Dr Sunil Kalai while representing ARNDRA (A Social Welfare Society) emphasized on financial self-reliance of civil society organizations - the only way of empowerment.  
 Overall, representatives from 30 organisations participated in the discussions and shared their success stories and also policy recommendations which would help them in smoothening their work. Those recommendations were noted down by three rapporteurs from Tripura University, which will then be compiled and taken up in the final conclave of G20 to be held at Nainital, Arunachal Pradesh on June 11 and 12. The prayers of gratitude was expressed by Prof Parimal Chandra Bhattacharjee, Director of VKIC and the programme was organised by the co-ordinators of VKIC, namely Research Associates Barnali Chakraborty, P Newome and VKIC Karakarla Barun Rajbongshi. There was a display of VKIC publications outside the auditorium as well.

- Indigenous women organizations should be consulted in all policy decisions of the government. -(Smt. Anima Debbarma, Additional Secretary, Borok Women's Forum, Tripura, India).
- Some local NGOs should be prevented from interfering in traditional faith and culture. Proper verification must be done by governments before allowing them to function. Forced Religious conversions is disturbing harmony amongst the communities and must be curbed.- (Shri Keshab Ch Jamatia, Joint Secretary, Jamatia Hoda, Tripura, India).

### গুয়াহাটি বিবেকানন্দ কেন্দ্রের সি-২০ সামিট ত্রিপুরায়

অনিমেষ মজুমদার  
 লামডিং। ১৩ মে

গুয়াহাটির বিবেকানন্দ কেন্দ্র ইনস্টিটিউট অব কালচার-এর ব্যবস্থাপনায় গুজুবাব ত্রিপুরা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সেমিনার কক্ষে আয়োজিত হল সি-২০ সামিট-এর অন্তর্গত সিভিল সোসাইটি ২০-এর নীতি সংলাপ। বিভিন্নতা, একতা, পারস্পরিক সহর্মিতা থিম নির্ভর এই আলোচনাচক্রের সহায়তায় ছিল ত্রিপুরার জামতিয়া হোডা, মহারাজা বীর বিক্রম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এবং নর্থ ইস্ট ট্রেইনিং রিসার্চ সেন্টার।  
 অনুষ্ঠানের আর্থিক সহায়তায় ছিল রেটারি ক্লাব অব ত্রিপুরা এবং ত্রিপুরা গ্রামীণ জীবিকা মিশন। মদলাচরণ ও দ্বীপ প্রজ্বলনের মাধ্যমে অনুষ্ঠানের সূত্রপাত হয়। সেমিনারে বিশিষ্টজনদের মধ্যে উপস্থিত ছিলেন অনুষ্ঠানের মডারেটর জিফু দেববর্মা, ত্রিপুরা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ডিসি অধ্যাপক গঙ্গা প্রসাদ প্রাসাইন, মহারাজা বীর বিক্রম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ডিসি সত্যদেও পোদ্দার, কেন্দ্রীয় সমন্বয়ক তথা বিবেকানন্দ কেন্দ্রের চেয়ারম্যান ড. জোরাম বেগি এবং অন্যান্যরা।  
 উদ্বোধনী সংগীত পরিবেশন করেন উৎপল বিশ্বাস এবং অন্যান্যরা। সি-২০ সামিটের অন্তর্গত সামাজিক নীতি সংলাপ অর্থাৎ সি-২০-র উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে স্বাগত ভাষণ দেন ড. জোরাম বেগি। ত্রিপুরা রাজ্যের পরম্পরাগত সংস্কৃতি এবং বিভিন্ন জাতি-জনজাতির সমন্বয় বিষয়ে বক্তব্য রাখেন জিফু দেববর্মা। অধ্যাপক সত্যদেও পোদ্দার বিভিন্ন মতবাদ এবং ভিন্ন ভিন্ন জাতি **পৃষ্ঠা-৭**



# Chaupal, Goa



## Highlights

**Venue-** Rajhans Naval Auditorium, Dabolim, Goa, India

**Date-** 27th May 2023

**Collaborations-** International Center For Cultural Studies in collaboration with Maharshi Adhyatma Vishwa Vidyalay and Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan

- Inauguration of a thought-provoking video on Vasudhaiv Kutumbhakam, emphasizing the concept of the global family.
- Enlightening speeches and Powerpoint presentations, and videos shown and delivered by distinguished ministers and eminent speakers, as they shared their insights and vision for a better future.
- A thought-provoking Wall of Noble Thoughts, where every delegate wrote

his/her thoughts to lend their voice to the G20 nations, fostering harmony and collective progress. There was a lot of enthusiasm seen by all delegates to write their thoughts on the wall.

- Over 350 delegates from all over India and abroad attended the conference physically and via video conferencing.
- A cartoon sketch of the C20 Goa event drawn by an Ex Naval officer; Captain Angshuman Chatterjee, was shown to all the delegates, which depicted delegates attending the C20 Goa Event and helping in formulating policy suggestions to be forwarded to the G20 Nations.
- A stimulating cultural dance performance by two students of the Maharshi Adhyatma Vishwavidyalay to the absolute classic of Rabindranath Tagore's song - 'Ekla Cholo Re'. The spirit of this song echoes that even if no one walks with you, surge on the path of righteousness. It calls upon the human spirit to rise.



- Over 100 newspapers and media houses from all over Goa and India covered this event.

## Brochure

[Click here for Brochure](#)

### Possible Achievements - Recommendations

Spirituality is the real power of India, and India is the Spiritual Capital of the World. The World is looking up to India for guidance. It is time to shed greed and look beyond geopolitical power to harness this power and give it to the world.

- Sadguru Cyriaque Vallee, Spiritualist, Germany

G20 nations should declare - as was done in case of economic development in the communique of 2005 - that there is no one model that fits all even in the development of human beings, society and culture. Every society is unique and has its own specific characteristics.

- Dr Pramod Sawant, Honourable Chief Minister, State of Goa

Every culture must have the right to follow one's own civilizational values through vision of life, values of life and develop systems to implement the same, not on the basis of uniformity or mechanical sameness but a living Oneness where the care of all is taken and the diversity of individuals as well as communities and the methods adopted by them to protect the freedom and happiness of all is respected.

- Shri Hans-Martin Heierling, Co-Founder House Of Balance, Davos Switzerland

Lessons should be learnt for a peaceful life with sustainable developmental goals, from the core philosophy of life, from personal to the cosmic level, bequeathed by Rishis who lived on this earth receiving Knowledge through Divine powers and gave everything that they had to the world even unknown people in distant lands without any aspirations to get anything in return.

- Shri Ajit Padmanabh, Who VR CEO, TEDx speaker with a vision to elevate the collective consciousness of humanity through ancient heritage and technology









# C20 Consultative Conference, Arunachal Pradesh

## Highlights

**Venue-** Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

**Date-** 22nd April 2023

**Organisers-** Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Arunachal Pradesh Chapter

The Consultative Conference was divided into three technical sessions with a formal Inaugural Ceremony and a Valedictory Function. Each session was begun with an invocation prayer from different prayer centers of the different tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.

## Inaugural Session

The policy dialogue was inaugurated by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Chowna Mein. Shri Mein also stressed on our individual duty towards our community for the protection, preservation

and promotion of culture and tradition. The formal welcome note was delivered by Shri Hage Kojeen, Chairman Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Arunachal Pradesh Chapter. He gave a brief background to the C20 Consultative Conference and stated that C20 represents the voice of the people's aspirations to be communicated to G20 for policy making. The keynote was delivered by Dr Joram Begi, National Coordinator of DIMR and Chairman, Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture (VKIC).

## 1st Technical Session

**Chairperson:** Shri Hage Kojeen, Retd IAS and Chairperson, VKIC Arunachal Pradesh Chapter

**Theme: Understanding Diversity and Inclusion in the context of Divyangjan, Transgender and Other Socially Disadvantaged Groups**







The session began with a short introduction by the Chairperson Prof. Jумыr Basar on the subtheme of the session. The session saw six resource persons who spoke on a wide range of topics. The Resource persons were Smt. Zilpha Modi, Smt Radhilu Chai Techі, Shri Sawang Wancha, Shri Techі Sonu, Smt. Joya Tasung and Smt. Kaman Pertin Basar. The key takeaway of the session was the need to do away with differences in a tribal society that hamper the inclusion of women, divyangjans, transgender or any other socially disadvantaged groups. The speakers recommended bringing changes in law and policy that will create mutual respect, inclusivity and celebrate diversity.

## 2nd Technical Session

**Chairperson:** Shri Hage Kojeen (Retd IAS and Chairperson, VKIC Arunachal Pradesh Chapter)

**Theme: Indigenous Communities and Their Culture and Faith: Towards Sustainability and Development**

The Chairperson began the session with a

brief introduction of the subtheme. The session saw three resource persons who spoke on the intrinsic nature of Indigenous faiths and the need to preserve and protect them. The resource persons were Shri Pai Dawe, Dr. Emi Rumi and Shri Sanwang Wangsa. The crux of this session was focused on indigenous communities and the different movements/institutions that are working towards the promotion, sustainable growth and development of indigenous tradition and cultural practices. The speakers also stressed the importance of reformation within society by keeping intact the essence of one's culture and tradition.

## 3rd Technical Session

**Chairperson:** Shri Rinjin Dorjee, Chief Information Commissioner, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh

**Themes: Integrating Native Tradition and Traditional Knowledge into Conservation Strategies and Respecting the methods Adopted by Various Countries, Cultures and Communities to Solve their problems as per their tradition and culture**



The third technical session started with a short introduction by the chairperson. The session saw three resource persons, Group Capt. Mohanto Pangging (Retd), Shri Kamjay Taisam and Shri Robin Hissang. This session focused on how native traditions and traditional knowledge have been used for problem-solving in different areas like traditional healing methods, preservation of the environment and water resources. The speakers also highlighted the urgency of reviving traditional healing systems, traditional

village councils and documentation of oral narrations before these are lost to posterity.

- Shri Mama Natung, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Arunachal Pradesh stressed the importance of nature in the sustainability of healthy human life. He said that the world must act as a single community in the preservation of nature. He spoke on the importance of making a difference in society by upholding the traditional knowledge system.

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## Arunachal capital hosts C20 Consultative Conference

**CORRESPONDENT**

ITANAGAR, April 22: As part of India's G20 presidency, a C20 Consultative Conference on the theme, 'Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect', organised by Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Arunachal Pradesh Chapter, was held at the Golden Jubilee Banquet Hall here today.

Attending the event as the chief guest, Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein appreciated the deliberations made by the subject experts and resource persons. He stated that Arunachal Pradesh, which ranks 12th among the biodiversity hotspots in the world, houses several indigenous tribes living in peace and harmony.

Stressing that India's G20 presidency centred around the goal of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the significance of incorporating diversity, inclusion and mutual respect



ety to embody unity in diversity. "To this effect, Arunachal Pradesh has long imbibed these vital aspects towards dwelling in peaceful coexistence and collectively advancing towards progressive heights," he said.

Mein further talked about the focused outlook of the Arunachal Pradesh Government with the Centre's commitment to accelerated development in

North East India towards uplifting various sectors like education, health care, infrastructure, connectivity, digital communication, and financial management of State resources. "The Government's objective is to achieve all-inclusive and equitable development across all regions and tribes," he said.

He further said that Arunachal Pradesh aims to be the topmost contributor towards

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2047 by minimising the consumption of fossil fuels. Efforts are also being made to elevate the quality of life across the border villages through facilitation of basic amenities.

Mein also suggested hosting of the upcoming C20 Summit at Namasa, official sources said.



# DIMR C20 Vimarsh-Uttar Pradesh

Topic: "Diversity, Inclusion and Mutual Respect"

Speaker



Shri Asim Arun

Minister of State (Independent Charge) Social Welfare



Shri Avnish Awasthi

Advisor to Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh



**Date:** 16th July 2023

**Venue:** Sahara City, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh  
Organizers-Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari in collaboration with Samaj Kalyan Vibhag, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

**Civil Societies-15**

**Total number of delegates- 160**

**Speakers-**

- **Shri Asim Arun** - Minister of State - Independent Charge Social Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh
- **Shri Avnish Awasthi** - Advisor to Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Government of Uttar Pradesh

**Highlights**

Shri Asim Arun, Minister of State- Independent Charge Social Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Shri Avnish Awasthi, Advisor to Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Government

of Uttar Pradesh were the chief speakers. Shri Arun was the first speaker who said, "When we talk about diversity and inclusion, sometimes we feel that it is a new concept, but it is not so, if we look at our scriptures and traditions, we have to take everyone along, this has always been our tradition." He further said, "Social equality cannot come only by persuading; we have to work separately to bring social equality and it is important to remember that C20 and civil societies have a very important role to play." Shri Avnish Awasthi, Advisor to Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Government







of Uttar Pradesh said that families are getting scattered nowadays, this is a worrying situation, we should try to unite the families.

There was an open session with the delegates which were moderated by the speakers wherein Civil Society Organisations gave their recommendations.

## Recommendations

### Economy

- The Indian state of Uttar Pradesh is progressing, Countries should establish university departments which will study the development models which were prevalent in a particular region for centuries.
- G20 must recognize that there is no "No one size fits all" model. The perception of a developed nation can be different for each country.

### Education

- Education curriculums must focus on character building rather than mere contributors of capital economy.
- Spirituality and cultural must be an integral part of education systems all over the world.
- G20 nations need to take definite measures to give some concessions and reservations for education and jobs to the economically weaker sections to cross over the poverty line.

## Some recommendations from the speakers

**Shri Asim Arun** - Minister of State - Independent Charge Social Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh

- There is a need to mainstream transgender persons through positivism, education and social reform to take them forward.
- Poverty is a major problem for the world. The world must think of eradication not through poor and rich divide but through skill development.

**Shri Avanish Awasthi** - Advisor to Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Government of Uttar Pradesh

- The worldwide discourse on Human Rights must change. The question of human rights of an individual must be advocated depending on an individual's contribution towards the society and nation. For example, there cannot be any human rights consideration of dreaded terrorists and criminals.
- Right to Culture or way of life must be passed by governments all over the world. This forms a fundamental principle of cultural freedom, wellbeing, expression, faith, etc. and stop religious intolerance, terrorism, intolerance towards ancient ways of life and culture.

# Brochure

[Click here for Brochure](#)





## Specially Focused Chaupals: Gender

The working group DIMR organised three specially focused Policy Dialogues on the subject Gender, Indigenous Communities, Disabled Disadvantaged and Displaced People. It also organised two community seminars on the Indigenous Communities of Northeast and Northwest India.

### Policy Dialogue: Gender Issue

The poster for the Policy Dialogue: Gender Issue event features a blue and yellow color scheme. At the top, it includes the G20 India 2023 logo and the theme 'DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, MUTUAL RESPECT'. Below this, a photograph shows a group of people in traditional Indian attire performing a cultural dance. The event details are listed in a blue box on the left, including the names and titles of the panel speakers and the chairing session. The date and time are prominently displayed in a yellow circle on the right. A QR code and a registration number are also provided at the bottom.

**PANEL SPEAKERS**

- SHREE. NITIN BHISE**  
Project Manager, Udan trust
- DR. RASHMI VEER**  
Bapat Multi Speciality Hospital
- SHREE. ONKAR BAPAT**  
Bapat Multi Speciality Hospital
- SHREE. PRASAD GONDKAR**  
Chairman, Puneri Pride Foundation
- SHREE. NILESH MAZIRE**  
Director, Puneri Pride Foundation
- SHREE. BIPIN DURGAI**  
Additional Director, Puneri Pride Foundation
- SHREE. AMIT MOHITE**  
Founder President, Savali Social Foundation

**CHAIRING SESSION**  
**PADMA SHREE NIVEDITA BHIDE**  
Vice President Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari

**MODERATED BY**  
**DR. APARNA LALINGKAR**  
SPPU Senate Member & Vivekanand Kendra Karyakarta

**24 APRIL 2023**  
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

Sharada Hall, Shikshan Prasak Mandali, Main Office, Vijaya Nagar, Sadashiv Peth Pune - 30

<https://qroo.de/vkv01>

REGISTRATION:  
**+91 9742045785**

#### Names of the Panel Speakers

- Shri Nitin Bhise, Project Manager Udan Trust
- Dr Rashmi Veer, Bapat Multi Speciality Hospital
- Shri Onkar Bapat, Bapat Multi Speciality Hospital
- Shri Amit Mohite, Founder President, Savali Social Foundation

**Total no of participants: 10**

#### Some important highlights

- The policy dialogue was chaired by Padmashri Nivedita Bhide, Steering Committee Member, C20 and All India Vice President Vivekananda Kendra
- The sessions were moderated by Dr Aparna Lalingkar, SPPU Senate Member
- Uddan Trust representative said: "Childhood sex abuse could lead to homosexuality."
- Bapat multi-specialty hospital representative said: "Many transgender persons do not want to come out of the prostitution as they get more money in prostitution than in a skilled job."

#### Highlights

**Date:** 24th April 2023

**Venue:** SPM Saraswati Sabhagruh, Sadashiv Peth Pune Maharashtra, India

**Organizations participated: 3**

- Uddan Trust
- Bapat Multi-Specialty Hospital
- Sawali Social Foundation



## Recommendations

- The policy makers should make policy for broadly four distinct groups that are combined in the term LGBTQAI+ as said before - Intersex or gender non-conforming, LGB, Transgender - who are uncomfortable with their sexual identity at the time of birth either because of mental afflictions or it is trendy and the Queer, Fluid etc. who consider family system, the protection of innocence of children as oppressive and want the age of consent law repealed. A separate terminology needs to be developed for these four types.
- Recognise the intersex infants and gender non-conforming children and include them in Census. Also, Census shall be conducted as per the sex-characteristics and not on the basis of gender identity.
- Treatments such as puberty blockers, life-long hormones, irreversible surgeries for gender transformation among intersex children, cis-gender children and adolescents, should be legally banned. In 2019, due to the work of Sri Gopishankar (of organization SRISHTI, Madurai), South Regional Representative of NCTP National Council for Transgender Persons inspired the landmark judgment from the Madras High Court (Madurai Bench) to ban sex selective surgeries on Intersex Infants/Children in Tamil Nadu. Tamilnadu is the first state to do that.
- Cultural traditions of countries and traditional communities of the world must be considered while making policies for Intersex people.
- International centre for study must be established in India and elsewhere where research of each group under LGBTQAI+ and study of the indigenous traditions of communities must be undertaken for the protection of intersex and gender non-conforming persons.
- GAS (gender affirming surgery) or irreversible surgery must not be undertaken at teenage or for children, as might have far reaching effects. There are studies which show a sudden increase in transgender persons which are further attributed to worldwide social acceptability or mental illness or immaturity of teenage children. Consuming hormonal medicines or puberty blockers or undertaking irreversible surgeries might cause serious health problems besides no option to undo the same if there is a change in decisions later in life. Therefore clinical, spiritual counselling is highly recommended and must be done under proper medical experts.
- Spiritual education, yoga, sports, fine arts, etc. must be a compulsory part of curriculum in schools and higher educational institutions. All sections of the society like actors, politicians, leaders, corporates, intellectuals worldwide must encourage these. Fellowship programmes, cultural programmes besides sponsorships for the same must be recommended by G20. All such initiatives of G20 would make the world a happy planet.
- Established Government-run shelter homes to provide shelter for intersex infants and gender non-conforming children abandoned from their families.
- Sex-selective surgeries on intersex infants and gender-affirming surgeries on gender non-conforming children's surgeries shall be regulated via forming a High-Level Committee in accordance with the medical body of the nation and standards of WHO, or only be allowed to the persons, who attained 'the Age of Consent' as per the laws of the nation.
- Recognise the intersex infants and include them in Census. Also, Census shall be conducted as per the above provided method and on the basis of diverse sex characteristics and diverse gender variant identities.







## Second Policy Dialogue – Disabled Disadvantaged and Displaced People

**Date:** 25th April 2023

**Venue:** Sawarkar Sabhagruh, MES Garware College, Pune, Maharashtra, India

**Organizations participated:**

- Swaroop Vardhini
- Vanchit Vikas
- Vayam
- Sanvedana Cerebral Palsy Vikasan Kendra
- Divyang Pratisthan
- Punaruthan Samarasata Gurukulam
- Youth 4 Punun Kashmir

### Panel of Speakers

1. Dr Sanjay Tambat, Chairman, Swaroopvardhini
2. Shri Rahul Kaul, President, Youth 4 Punun Kashmir
3. Smt Sunita Jogalekar, Director Vanchit Vikas
4. Smt Dimple Pallavi, Secretary Prabha Hira Pratisthan
5. Shri Vinayak Thalkar, Chairman Vayam
6. Dr Yogesh Niturkar, Joint-secretary, Sanvedana Cerebral Palsy Vikasan Kendra
7. Shri Harish Sarade, Divyang Pratisthan
8. Shri Udhhavrao Kale, Vice-President, Bhatake Vikas Parishad
9. PadmaShri Shri Girish Prabhune, President Punaruthan Samarasta Gurukulam

**Total no of participants: 15**

The policy dialogue was chaired by Smt. Nivedita Bhide, Vice President Vivekananda Kendra and C20 Steering Committee Member. Coordinated by Dr Aparna Lalingkar, SPPU Member and was moderated by Mr Vinayak Gogate, Karyakarta Prabodhan Manch Pune.

### Recommendations

- Mandatory HIV testing before marriage. This will help in restraining the spread of HIV and will give an informed choice to both the parties.





- HIV to be given a chronic health condition status. Chronic diseases are defined broadly as conditions that last 1 year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living or both. This will help the HIV positive students in times of medical emergency or intervention during critical board examination.
- PLWHIV should be given good and inclusive opportunity by the Government of India to be able to showcase their talent in the field of dance, drama, art and culture through special shows and cultural program. It can be organized at any forum to make these children more inclusive and a part of society.
- License should be provided for women who enter into prostitution as a profession. The license should be renewed every year after scrutiny of a committee of doctors, social workers etc.
- For widows and women who are abandoned by their husbands should not be called with insulting names but they should be called Kalyani.

- Disabled people should have representation in the Parliaments as well as legislative assemblies.
- HIV affected children since birth though do not come into the category of persons with disabilities they should be provided with timely medical support at hospitals/health centres. Designated medical facilities in a district can nominate a section to treat HIV affected children.
- The declaration of minority status of an individual must be well defined by C20. Minority status must be decided on the social fabric of a particular region not in terms of convenience or population of a religious community worldwide.
- The UN must constructively discuss on persons/communities which are displaced not with some kind of prejudice towards many displaced communities who are minority worldwide and are from traditional communities. There cannot be good and bad terrorism.





# ‘वैवाहिक दर्जावरून स्त्रियांमध्ये भेदभाव नको’

समाजातील विविध प्रश्नांवर काम करणाऱ्या स्वयंसेवी संस्थांच्या अपेक्षा-आकांक्षा ‘जी-२०’च्या नेत्यांपर्यंत पोहोचविण्यासाठी ‘सी-२०’ गट स्थापण्यात आला. त्याअंतर्गत विविध विषयांवर मंथन झाले. पुण्यात पार पडलेल्या चर्चासत्रांच्या गोषवाऱ्याचा हा उत्तरार्ध.



## ▶ डॉ. अपर्णा लळिगकर

‘बहुसमावेशन आणि परस्पर आदर’ (डीआयएमआर) या कार्यगटात ‘दिव्यांग, वंचित आणि अंतर्गत विस्थापित’ या विषयावर विचारमंथन झाले. या क्षेत्रात कार्य करणाऱ्या एकूण आठ संस्थांना आमंत्रण दिलेले होते. यात विविध प्रकारचे शारीरिक अपंगत्व आलेल्यांसाठी कार्य करणाऱ्या संस्था सहभागी होत्या. त्याचप्रमाणे एड्सप्रस्त मुलांसाठी वसतिगृह आणि शाळा चालवणारी संस्था, वेश्यांसाठी आणि त्यांच्या मुलांसाठी काम करणारी संस्था, भटक्या-विमुक्त आणि पारधी समाजातील मुलांसाठी ‘गुरुकुल’ चालविणारी संस्था; तसेच वनवासींसाठी काम करणारी संस्थाही यात सहभागी झाली होती.

याशिवाय आपल्याच देशात विस्थापितांचे जीवन जगणाऱ्या काश्मिरी पंडितांसाठी काम करणारी संस्थाही यात सहभागी झालेली होती. परिसंवादात या संस्थांनी आपले कार्य आणि यशस्वीता सांगितल्या आणि काही धोरणात्मक प्रस्तावही दिले. त्यावर विचारविनिमय झाला. त्यातील काही मुद्दे पुढीलप्रमाणे: १) दिव्यांगांसाठी कायदे बनवताना प्रत्यक्ष दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचा सहभाग असेल तर खऱ्या अर्थाने त्यांच्या हिताचे कायदे बनतील आणि त्यांची प्रभावी अंमलबजावणी होईल. २) राज्यपाल किंवा राष्ट्रपतींकडून ज्या लोकप्रतिनिधींना विधानपरिषदेत किंवा राज्यसभेत पाठविले जाते अशांत सिने नट-नट्यां ऐवजी दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना प्रतिनिधित्व मिळावे. ३) डिस्ट्रिक्टो कार्ड आणि आधारकार्ड काढण्यात अडचणी येतात. त्यात सुसूत्रता आणावी. ४) शिक्षणात राखीव जागांमध्ये एचआयव्ही पीडित/व्ही मूल ही स्वतंत्र कॅटेगरी करावी. ५) स्त्रियांच्या वैवाहिक दर्जावरून त्यांच्यात भेदभाव करू नये. ६) वेश्या व्यवसाय हा लायसन्स व्यवसायांत समाविष्ट केला, तर त्यांना इतरांप्रमाणे व्यावसायिक नियम लागू होतील आणि त्याचे फायदेही मिळतील. ७) वेप्या, विधवा, परित्यक्ता असे अपमानकारक शब्द न वापरता अभया, कल्याणी असे शब्द वापरावेत. ८) दोन भिन्न संस्कृतींच्या समाजांमध्ये केवळ एकानेच हक्क दाखवत सगळं मिळविण्याचा प्रयत्न केला की काय होतं ते काश्मीरमध्ये दिसून आलं. जोपर्यंत परस्परांच्या संस्कृतीविषयी, पंथांविषयी आदरभाव बाळगला जात नाही, आपल्या हक्कांबरोबरच आपल्या कर्तव्यांची जाणीव ठेवली जात नाही, तोपर्यंत विभक्तेचे समायोजन होणार नाही.

## हे विश्वचि माझे घर

२६ एप्रिलला ‘वसुधैवकुटुंबकम्’ या कार्यगटांतर्गत जीवनातील विविध पैलूंमध्ये ‘वसुधैवकुटुंबकम्’ कशा प्रकारे

अमलात आणलं जातं, या विषयावर परिसंवाद झाला. यात शिक्षण, क्रीडा, साहित्य, प्रसारमाध्यमे, पर्यावरण, विज्ञान-तंत्रज्ञान, सौमावर्ती भागातील लोकांसाठी काम करणारी संस्था अशा आठ संस्था निर्मित होत्या. ‘वसुधैवकुटुंबकम्’ हा शब्द महोपनिषदातील श्लोकातून आलेला आहे. “अयं बंधुरयं नैति गगना लघुचेतसाम्। उदारचरितानां तु वसुधैवकुटुंबकम्॥” अर्थात हे माझे ते तुझे अशाप्रकारे विचार करणारे लोक कोत्या मनोवृत्तीचे असतात. पण उदार मनोवृत्तीचे लोक ही पूर्ण पृथ्वी (हे पूर्ण विश्व) माझे कुटुंब आहे, असा विचार करतात. एका कुटुंबामध्ये कसे सगळे परस्परांची काळजी घेतात, परस्परांना मदत करतात आणि एकमेकांच्या गरजांची पूर्तता करतात, तसेच विविध क्षेत्रात काम करणाऱ्या संस्था भारतातच नाही, तर भारताबाहेरही लोकांना त्या त्या क्षेत्रात मदत करतात. उदाहरणादाखल ‘असीम फाउंडेशन’चे काम. त्यांनी अफगाणिस्तानमधील मुलांसाठीदेखील चालू केले. असेच उदाहरण पाहून येथील विज्ञानाभ्रमाचेही देता येईल. त्यांनी अमेरिकेतील ‘एमआयटी विद्यापीठातील प्राध्यापकांच्या सहयोगातून ‘फॅब-लॅब’ची निर्मिती केली. ज्यामध्ये विविध टूलचा वापर करून तुम्हाला जे हवं ते तुम्ही बनवू शकता. आजमितीला जगातील ७० देशांत या ‘फॅब-लॅब’चे जाळे पसरलेलं आहे. या एकूण ८५ लॅब्समधील ५०० च्याहून अधिक विद्यार्थी एकच अभ्यक्रम एकाचवेळी करू शकतात, इतकी या सगळ्याची कार्यक्षमता आहे. अमेरिकेतील एमआयटीच्या दर्जाच्या अभ्यासक्रमासाठी बाहेरच्या राज्यांतूनही विद्यार्थी पाबळसारख्या छोट्या गावात येऊन राहतात.

२७ एप्रिलला ‘वसुधैवकुटुंबकम्’ या कार्यगटांतर्गत ‘विविध धार्मिक परंपरांचा शास्त्रीय दृष्टिकोन’ या विषयावर आधारित परिसंवाद आयोजित केलेला होता. यासाठी रोमन कॅथलिक, यहुदी, शीख, मुस्लिमान, पारसी, बुद्धिस्ट, जैन, वैदिक अशा विविध धर्मांच्या प्रतिनिधींना बोलवले होते. त्यांना आपापल्या धार्मिक संस्थांच्या कार्याची थोडक्यात माहिती सांगून धर्मग्रंथातील ‘वसुधैवकुटुंबकम्’ ही संकल्पना उद्धृत करणारी वचने शोधून ती नमूद करण्यास सांगितली होती. त्या अनुषंगाने परिसंवादाची चर्चा पुढे नेण्यात आली. शीख पंथामध्ये ‘सिख’ हा शब्द शिष्य या शब्दातून आलेला आहे. त्यांच्याकडे गुरु-शिष्य परंपरा आहे आणि गुरुद्वारा हे एक शैक्षणिक केंद्र आहे. शीख पंथामध्ये ते मदत करत नसून सेवा करतात. समारोप स्वामी श्रीकांतानंदजी म्हणाले: “धार्मिक काळामध्ये दोन भ अस्ततात. एक मूलभूत शाश्वत तत्त्व आणि दुसरा कर्मकांड आयुष्य कर्मकांडाकडे फारसे लक्ष न देता शाश्वत तत्त्वांकडे ल घ्यावे. ती सर्व धर्मांत सारखीच आहेत.” चारही परिसंवादांची सांगता शांतिमंत्राने झाली.

(लेखिका सी-२० ‘पॉलिस्त्री डायलॉग’च्या पुणे संयोजक आहेत.)



# Third Policy Dialogue: Indigenous Communities

## Civil Society Consultation

**VIVEKANANDA KENDRA INSTITUTE OF CULTURE**  
and  
**INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL FAITH AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT**  
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Organizes Civil Society Consultation on  
**Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect**

**Chief Guest**  
**Smt. Nandita Gorlosa**  
Minister for Indigenous and Tribal Faith and Culture Department,  
Power, Mines and Minerals and Cooperation, Govt. of Assam

**Focused Discussion on**  
**INTER-COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS AND MUTUAL RESPECT**

**Participants**  
**REPRESENTATIONS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

Sunday, May 28, 2023 | Time : 9:00AM to 7:30PM  
Williamson Magor Auditorium, VKIC, Guwahati, Assam - 781001

**Mutual respect towards faith and cultural traditions of communities derided as backward, and outdated. Adequate representation of the native traditions in world forums.**

### BACKGROUND

Nature has conferred every being a unique, but multifaceted identity. This uniqueness allows for perpetual transmutation of energy, leading to diversity. Therefore, diversity is a natural phenomenon, be it in case of plants, animals, geographical features, the solar system, galaxies etc. It is not possible to sustain life without diversity. Diversity is unavoidable, but when its underlying connections are understood, it leads to balance and harmony. In ancient Indian wisdom and many other civilizations, it was always enunciated to see the One that manifests in all. It is said 'ekam sat viparah bahudhah vadanti' – truth is one but it manifests in various forms. The whole universe is a manifestation of the

divinity, and is therefore, interconnected, inter-related and interdependent.

### Organisers

Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture in collaboration with Indigenous And Tribal Faith And Culture (ITFC), Department Government of Assam.

### OBJECTIVE

- Mutual respect needs to be accorded towards faith and cultural traditions of communities that were derided till now as backward, outdated and worse still as false and evil.
- Sustainable Development is required not only for acknowledging the role of cultural values but also to proactively promote and protect the traditional communities. Or in other words to protect the cultural faith and traditions of the tribal and other disadvantaged communities.



- Respecting native traditions all over the world and applying principles of diversity, inclusion and mutual respect is required. In America, Europe and Africa, have driven various native traditions to the wall that some have almost become extinct. But these traditions (including Indian traditions) have prominently contributed to the protection of the environment and bio-diversity by their very practices.
- Inclusion, recognition and promotion of the contribution of environmentally-conscious cultures.
- Bringing into the mainstream marginalized and economically weaker section. Networking and exchange among native and traditional communities the world over to support them in the process of development.
- Revitalization of the excluded cultures and societies.

- As the whole world is technologically connected, the concept of minority cannot be limited to a nation. The need is to discuss and define the minority issue from global view point.

## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

The programme started with inaugural session where Smt. Nandita Garlosa, Assam Cabinet Minister for Power, Sports & Youth Welfare, Co-operation and ITFC (Archaeology) Dept. Govt. of Assam, inaugurated the session.

The session was divided into three broad sessions viz, Session I - Culture and Nature, Session II - Culture and Society and Session III- Culture and Economy. The sessions were followed by Group Discussion for Recommendations and then by concluding session. The programme concluded by Cultural Presentation of the Delegates.





## PARTICIPANTS

The consultation programme was participated by members of 16 indigenous communities and total representatives were 46 who participated in the programme.

## ACCOUNTS OF DELIBERATION

**Culture and Nature :** The moderator of the session was Shri. Jayanta Kumar Sarmah, Freelance Consultant and Researcher, Environment & Development), Assam.

The world is comprised of two types of human being, one is eco-system people who resides with the nature around and the other is biosphereric people who is dependent on the eco-systemic people. The eco-systemic people have a close relationship with nature where



the people understand the importance of nature and its product. Shri Sarmah cited the example of 'Hanthu Mehek' medicinal plant

among the Karbi community which is now available in markets of Guwahati but its importance and usages and storage is well known to the community people. The world has to learn from the eco-systemic people on the sustainable development and that nature can be part and parcel of one's way of life.

Shri Sarmah also mentioned about the 'Samporidisa' and 'Damadi Daikhos' or the sacred groves among the Dimasa community which helps in maintain the ecosystem and there lies an auspicious Sangam between, land, water and living beings.

**Culture and Society:** The moderator of the session was Dr. Uttam Bhatari, Dept. of History, Gauhati University Dr. Bhattari stated that culture and nature are intertwined. Assam is a culturally rich society where various society have unique cultures which have certain commonalities with one or another community. Dr. Bhattari stated about the Kopili





river which is a sacred river for both Dimasa and Karbi people as they offer prayer and also has a Naam related to it. In Karbi language Kopili river is known as 'Langklang' where 'Lang' is water and 'Klang' is Kopili. The word 'Langklang' is also used by the Dimasa Community.

**Culture and Economy:** The moderator of the session was Prof. Kalyan Das, Dept. of Geography, Cotton University.



Prof. Kalyan Das stated that every individual in the society is part of one university, that is cultural university. We learn basic way of life from the practised rites and rituals, norms and culture and from community we live it but very less from the books we have studied. Here, we will discuss and understand how culture and economy of a community is related to each other.

For daily use and to be healthy we need food. We have various medicinal plants which we consume

daily, though they might not exactly cure us from certain illnesses but helps us to build our immunity strong which helps to cut our expenses in medical treatment which will ultimately decrease the burden on government on medical expenses. This traditional knowledge is used by our ancestors and we still practise and use it.

Here, Prof. Das cited the example of Apatani village which after research found that has the most energy efficient food production system. He also cited the example, how the traditional knowledge is used in Nagaland for terrace cultivation.

Another important aspect of our society is the collective efficiency and voluntary effort which helps in the development of economy. He highlighted the concept of social capital and the habit imbedded within us is the supporting each other. If we support the weaker section, then they will lead a self-sufficient life-style. He brought in light how culture and environment is inter-related, that is, we respect our local eco-system or ecology for sustainable development.

## Recommendations

### Culture and Nature

- Following traditional faith and culture many of the tribal communities of the state have indigenous believes and practices associated with specific flora and fauna, which they considered as sacred. Considering such practices such species of flora and fauna need



to be declared as state's sacred flora and fauna in align with National Biodiversity Act 2002, and need to incorporate in Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010 with appropriate amendment.

- Looking in to the rich Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Traditional Technological Knowledge (TTK) of the tribal communities of the state, it is empathised on the followings :
  - (a) TEK and TTK must be considered through participatory approach of planning from grass root level for any nature of developmental, environmental management, natural resource management and conservation planning;
  - (b) TEK and TTK of different tribal communities need to documented scientifically and better to access its contribution towards SDG goals;
  - (c) TEK and TTK based different build up structure like buildings, bridges etc and management practices like irrigation system need preserve and maintain as heritage of the state;
  - (d) Based on scientific analysis of TEK and TTK based building design need to be incorporate in state building construction code need to develop state level policy framework so that people of the tribal communities will get supports from financial institutions like bank to constructs their houses with traditional design;
- Looking in to the aspects traditional faith and nature worshipping practices and its associated sacred places including scared grooves of the state, it is proposed, (a) scientific mapping of sacred places of the state to develop an atlas; (b) state government need to creates legal frameworks to protect and maintain such places;
- The traditional faith and culture based practices of the tribal communities of the state contributing towards nature conservation and they coexist with nature and wildlife; in this

context the tribal villages preserving sacred forest, village forest, scared water bodies, spring shed etc, such village need to provide special incentive for their village development from the state, looking in the ecological services of such traditional culture based conservation practices; adopting the same principles as it was adopted by the countries 15th Finance Commission's ( 2020 ) mechanism ( 7.5 to 10% weightage to forest cover in financial allocation to state) b) Different University of State Need to start 'Language Study Centre' covering the tribal languages of the state with provision of (a) learning for tribal and non-tribal students too, (b) promotion of language research on tribal languages of the state;

- In the case of languages and dialect having limitation in writing, there is need to take initiative by the government for developing (a) Dictionary of respective languages and (b) script development. For this purpose, government can extend fellowships to research scholars / interested students through state universities.
- After review the existing situation of tribal villages and challenges evolved with land, it is proposed for (a) separate land right mechanism in the state with due consideration customary laws for the tribal villages/areas; (b) separate land use policies for tribal villages/areas need to institutionalised through proper participatory grass root level consultation processes so that zero developmental displacement take place.
- Need to document Indigenous Faith and Cultural practices through participatory research methodology along with documentation of oral history of the tribal communities. State Government may institutionalize the process through proper financial provisions.



- State Government need to prepare a long-term plan to develop 'State Humanscape Museum' in the state with appropriate provision to showcasing and interpretation of tribal Housing, Handicraft, Handloom, Faith Practices, Festivals, etc.
- State needs to develop framework for declaring heritage village among the different tribal villages (at least one heritage village per tribe) and develop that village as 'Learning Centre of Tribal Culture' based on the principle of participatory learning.

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## Culture and Society

- With due consideration of different tribal language of the state and their language education following aspects was emphasised:
- In the context of New Education Policy 2020 (a) Align with National Curriculum Framework for School Education- 2023 the state education system need provide proper learning opportunities to tribal students to learn their language; Different University of State Need to start 'Language Study Centre' covering the tribal languages of the state with provision of (i) learning for tribal and non-tribal students too, (ii) promotion of language research on tribal languages of the state.
- In the case of languages and dialect having limitation in writing, there is need to take initiative by the government for developing (a) Dictionary of respective languages and (b) script development. For this purpose, government can extend fellowships to research scholars / interested students through state universities.
- There can be a provision of on-line tribal language learning with proper collaboration with appropriate institutions.
- After review the existing situation of tribal villages and challenges evolved with land, it is





## Culture and Economy

- State need review traditional culture based economic practices of tribal communities in the state, particularly in aspects of traditional agriculture with ago-biodiversity and natural framing, handloom and handicraft practices with appropriate framework and identify the cultural economic zones within the state. Practitioners of such cultural economic zones need encourage with appropriate incentives with subsidy and tax rebates promotion of cultural economic practices.
- There is a need of local seeds conservation and protection of farmers rights. In this context consultation proposed for following initiatives

(a) Scientific documentation of local seeds, its characterization, in situ conservation (b) Developing village cluster level 'Seed Library' for seed exchange and borrowing (c) Incorporation of all information related local seeds in 'People's Biodiversity Register' as per provision of National Biodiversity Act 2002 (d) Need to take initiatives local framers' practices with local plants and seeds under the Plant Variety Protection and Farmers Right, 2001 (e) State needs to introduce the community certified natural farming product protocol

- All the tribal textile design of the state needs to document and state need to take initiatives

these design registration under IPR act for protect of such design from piracy.

- The consultation proposed for revision of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for production) Act 1985 because the act unable cover all the traditional tribal handloom product of the state; the list of the product mentioned against Assam was very generalized one, every traditional handloom product of the tribal community having specific name and design which was not mentioned in the list.
- In relation to the New Education Policy 2020, consultation proposed for incorporation tribal handloom and handicraft practices and traditional musical instrument production as vocational trade in the vocational education from school to university level education, request state government to take special initiatives for the same.
- In the context of skill development consultation proposed for developing new traditional skill development programme under the State Skill University of the State;
- Looking into new economic opportunities the consultation proposed for developing 'Rural Eco-cultural Tourism' in Tribal Villages of the state with principle of 'Community Base Tourism' adopting appropriate policy framework for the same maintaining ethos and ethics of responsible tourism.







## Community Seminar

# Traditional Systems of The Deori Community: Change and Continuity



**Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture**

*in collaboration with*

**Deori Sahitya Sabha**

*organises*

**C-20 Policy Dialogue on  
*Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect***

*with special focus on*

**Traditional Systems of the Deori Community : Change and Continuity**

**Date : 8th & 9th July, 2023**

**Venue: Madhabdev University, Narayanpur, Lakhimpur District, Assam, India**

**Date** - 8th- 9th July 2023

**Organizers** -Vivekananda Kendra  
Institute of Culture, Deori Chucheba,  
Chengcha

**Venue** - Madhabdev University,  
Narayanpur District, Assam, India

**Participants** -152

**Important Dignitaries** - Dr Amiya Kumar Bhuyan, MLA Bhipuria Constituency, Lakhimpur District, Assam, India, Prof. Nirode Boruah , Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Madhabdev University, Shri Anand Mishra, Superintendent of Police, North Lakhimpur District, Assam, India, Dr Joram Begi, National Coordinator, DIMR and Chairman VKIC, Shri Bhoirab Deori, Chief Executive Member Deori Autonomous Council.





## Purpose of the Event

The nature and purpose of the community seminar is a participatory and interactive platform. The key aspects of this seminar include:

- **Community Focus:** The seminar is centered around diverse communities, recognizing the value and significance of their traditions, culture, and rituals. This focus indicates an intention to celebrate and learn from the rich diversity that exists within these communities.
- **Participatory Approach:** The seminar is designed to actively involve participants, encouraging them to share their insights, experiences, and practices. This approach promotes a dynamic exchange of ideas and fosters collaborative learning.
- **Learning and Innovation:** By engaging with various communities, the seminar aims to gather knowledge about their best practices. This understanding serves as a foundation for innovation and improvement across different aspects of the society.
- **Enhancing Sustainability:** The focus on sustainable action suggests that the seminar aims to identify practices and

approaches that can be maintained over time for the benefit of both the communities and society at large.

- **Cultural Exchange:** The emphasis on learning from different communities indicates an interest in cultural exchange and cross-cultural understanding. This can contribute to mutual respect and appreciation among participants from various backgrounds.
- **Promoting Diversity and Inclusion:** By acknowledging and highlighting diverse traditions and practices, the seminar aligns with the values of diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect.
- **Action-Oriented:** The mention of "sustain action" indicates that the insights gained from the seminar will not just remain theoretical but will be applied in practical ways to bring about positive change.







The seminar also focused on "community knowledge and indigenous wisdom for sustaining diversity, modernity and creating a conflict-free world" besides embodying a holistic and inclusive approach to progress. This approach is further emphasized through the theme of "Enhancing Development through Culture," which recognizes the profound impact that culture has on shaping societies and economies.

#### Key elements include:

- **Community Knowledge and Indigenous Wisdom:** By valuing and integrating community knowledge and indigenous wisdom, the seminar acknowledges the importance of preserving and drawing from the accumulated wisdom of various cultures. This knowledge can offer unique insights into sustainable practices and harmonious coexistence.
- **Sustaining Diversity:** The emphasis on sustaining diversity indicates a commitment to preserving cultural heritage and recognizing its importance in enriching societies. This aligns with the idea that diverse perspectives and traditions contribute to a more vibrant and resilient world.
- **Modernity and Conflict-Free World:** The recognition of indigenous wisdom alongside modernity implies a balanced approach that seeks to integrate traditional wisdom with contemporary advancements. This integration can contribute to resolving conflicts and promoting harmony in a rapidly changing world.
- **Enhancing Development through Culture:** Culture is acknowledged as a driving force for development, going beyond economic factors. This perspective aligns with the notion that culture is not just a backdrop but a cornerstone of progress.
- **Unique Economy Dynamics:** The mention of "unique economy dynamics" suggests an understanding that economic practices can vary across cultures and contexts. This recognition supports the idea that tailored approaches are essential for addressing specific challenges and opportunities.
- **One Size Doesn't Fit All:** The principle of "One size doesn't fit all" underscores the importance of context-specific solutions. This principle challenges the notion of uniform solutions and instead advocates for strategies that respect individuality and diversity.



Thus the community seminar aims to bridge the gap between traditional wisdom and modern advancements, leveraging culture and community knowledge to create a harmonious and conflict-free world. It seeks to strike a balance between progress and preservation, while acknowledging the need for context-specific strategies that honour diversity and uniqueness. Overall, the seminar seeks to create a space for inclusive dialogue shared learning and the exchange of ideas among diverse communities with the ultimate goal of fostering innovation and sustainable action.



## Deori Community: An Introduction

Below are the insights into the Deori community, one of the major indigenous groups in the Northeast region of India. Few key points of the seminar :

- **Origin and Identity:** The Deoris originate from the Chutिया community and are considered to be descendants of King Bhisma. The term "Deori" signifies individuals with deep knowledge of gods and goddesses, often referred to as the Brahmins of the indigenous tribes. They

settled in regions like Kundil (Sadiya) along the Kundilpani river.

- **Colonial Era and Racial Theories:** During the colonial period, racial theories were propagated to create feelings of discontent and inferiority among indigenous communities. These theories aimed to justify foreign invasions. The Deori community was also influenced by these narratives, which falsely linked their origins to North East Asia.



- **Religious Beliefs:** The Deori community practices a complex system of worship involving various gods and goddesses. Deities like Kundi-Mama, Burha Burhi (Siva-Durga), and Pisa-dema (Siva) hold significance in their religious practices. Historical accounts suggest that the Deoris served as royal priests for Chutiyas, Kacharies, and Ahoms.
- **Migration and Environmental Factors:** Due to factors such as natural disasters (e.g., the 1950 earthquake and floods), the Deoris migrated from their original homeland of Sadiya to different districts of Assam. British historians theorized invasions as the reason behind migration, although these theories lacked substantial evidence and have been discredited by academia.
- **Population and Literacy:** The Deori population is smaller compared to other indigenous groups in the region, constituting around 1.20% of the total janajati population of Assam. The literacy rate has shown improvement over the years, rising from 27.73% in 1971 to 54.13% in 1991.
- **Challenges and Cultural Preservation:** The passage indicates challenges faced by the Deori community, including linguistic shifts and the potential loss of the Deori language among the youth. It also highlights efforts to preserve and understand their unique culture, including countering distorted historical narratives.

## Community Uniqueness

Every community around the world possesses a unique set of traditions, culture, practices and values that play a crucial role in preserving their identity and heritage. Below is an in-depth look into various aspects of the Deori community, shedding light on their traditions, culture and way of life.

- **Community Diversity:** The Deori community can be categorized into three groups: Dibongiyas, Tengaponiyas, and Borgoyans.
- **Language:** While Dibongiyas retain their language, the other two groups have adopted Assamese.
- **Deities' Influence:** The Deori society is influenced by the commands of deities, known as Deodhoni, who play a significant role in guiding the community.
- **Deori Gods:** Prominent deities in Deori worship include Kundi Mama, Burha-Burhi (Siva-Durga), and Baliya Baba.
- **Main source of livelihood:** Agriculture and domestication of animals remains the primary source of livelihood for the Deori community.
- **Changing Occupations:** Modern-day youth are increasingly shifting away from traditional sources of income. For instance, many in Bordeorigaon have joined the Indian Army to serve the motherland.



- **Self-Reliance and Community Support:** The Deoris exhibit a strong sense of self-reliance and community support. During economic crises, the community comes together to contribute and support affected families.
- **Housing and Lifestyle:** Deori houses are constructed using bamboo and cane thatch, elevated about 5-7 ft from the ground. Features like Misong (open space), granaries, and weaving units are common.
- **Judicial System:** The Deori community upholds traditional judicial systems rooted in faith and community values. Elders, guided by deori gods, make decisions, contributing to a crime-free society.
- **Education:** Traditional education is imparted orally in Thangarhs and Dewalayas (temples) by Pujaris through Diksha (initiation). However, modern education is becoming more preferred by parents.
- **Health and Healing:** Traditional healing systems are practiced by healers known as Mongolotis, based on faith in deities and community gods.
- **Distinctive Dress:** The Deori community follows strict distinctions in dress between married and unmarried women, with various cloth types and styles.
- **Major Festival:** Bisu Puja is a significant festival in Deori culture.
- **Dietary Habits:** The staple diet consists of rice, and meat, fish, and pork are commonly consumed. Dishes like Miduji Jubura (Bamboo shoot curry) and Chucha (Dry fish chutney) are popular.

This detailed overview offers insights into the Deori community's rich cultural practices, socio-economic dynamics, and traditional values that continue to shape their way of life.

## Recommendations

- **Preservation of Identity:** Unique traditions and cultural practices help communities maintain their distinct identity in a rapidly changing world. These elements connect present generations to their past and provide a sense of continuity.
- **Cohesion and Unity:** Shared traditions and practices create a sense of belonging and unity among community members. They strengthen interpersonal bonds and promote social cohesion.
- **Resilience and Adaptation:** Cultural practices often hold inherent wisdom that has been accumulated over generations. They provide communities with tools to adapt to challenges and changes, enabling them to thrive in various circumstances.
- **Transmission of Values:** Traditions and cultural practices are effective vehicles for transmitting values, ethics, and morals from one generation to the next. They teach lessons about respect, cooperation, and community responsibility.
- **Addressing Challenges:** Communities often embed solutions to local challenges within their traditions.



Traditional knowledge and practices can offer insights into sustainable resource management, healthcare, conflict resolution, and more.

- **Cultural Diversity:** The diversity of cultures globally enriches humanity's collective experience. By preserving their unique practices, communities contribute to the global tapestry of cultures, fostering mutual respect and understanding.
- **Empowerment and Pride:** Embracing and celebrating one's cultural heritage fosters a sense of pride and self-esteem. It empowers individuals to express their identity confidently in the broader society.
- **Innovation:** Unique cultural elements can inspire innovation. By drawing from traditional knowledge and practices, communities may develop creative solutions to modern challenges.
- **Interconnectedness:** Cultural practices often tie communities to their environments and natural resources. This fosters a deep sense of responsibility for preserving the local ecosystems and promoting sustainable practices.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Traditions and cultural practices provide educational opportunities beyond formal schooling. Younger generations can learn valuable life skills, craftsmanship, and cultural knowledge from their elders.
- **Economic Activities:** Many cultural practices are linked to economic

activities, such as traditional crafts, arts, and local markets. Preserving these practices can contribute to community livelihoods.

- **Tourism and Cultural Exchange:** Unique traditions can attract interest from outsiders, contributing to cultural tourism and fostering cross-cultural exchange, understanding, and appreciation.

All governments must establish a department for the promotion of indigenous faith and culture. The establishment of a department for the promotion of indigenous faith and culture can play a crucial role in preserving and celebrating the cultural diversity of a nation. However, its success depends on careful planning, consultation with indigenous communities, and a commitment to respecting cultural values and autonomy. Some excerpts of the discussion are given below:

- **Cultural Preservation:** Indigenous cultures often have unique languages, traditions, rituals, and knowledge systems. A dedicated department can work to preserve and promote these aspects of culture, preventing their erosion due to globalization and modernization.
- **Empowerment:** Indigenous communities often face challenges in maintaining their identity and cultural practices due to historical marginalization and discrimination. A department focused on their promotion can empower these



communities by providing resources, education, and recognition.

- **Education:** A dedicated department can develop educational programs that incorporate indigenous history, traditions, and knowledge into the curriculum. This can raise awareness among both indigenous and non-indigenous populations about the importance of these cultures.
- **Cultural Revitalization:** In some cases, indigenous cultures have faced significant decline due to various factors. A department can aid in efforts to revitalize and rejuvenate cultural practices that may be fading away.
- **Dialogue and Understanding:** By actively engaging with indigenous communities, the government can foster better understanding and communication between different cultural groups. This can contribute to social harmony and cohesion.
- **Legal Protection:** A dedicated department can work on developing and implementing policies that protect the rights of indigenous communities, including their cultural and spiritual practices, lands, and resources.
- **Tourism and Economic Opportunities:** Indigenous cultures can be attractive to tourists seeking unique cultural experiences. A department can help manage sustainable cultural tourism that benefits both indigenous communities and the broader economy.

Establish research centres for the study of diverse indigenous communities to find solutions from traditional wisdom of indigenous/traditional communities, solving complex global problems.

Stop religious intolerance, terrorism, intolerance towards ancient ways of life by means of vandalism of ancient monuments, places of worship, academic terrorism by academically disputing and misrepresenting ancient cultures.

Thus, in a rapidly changing world, where globalization and technological advancements sometimes challenge cultural diversity, the preservation of unique traditions becomes essential for maintaining the vibrancy of societies and enriching the global human experience.

The two-day event was a dynamic and engaging experience that combined interactive sessions with a variety of cultural events. Participants had the opportunity to engage in discussions, share ideas and connect with one another. The event also featured cultural performances, showcasing different traditions and artistic expressions. Overall, the event successfully balanced intellectual exchange with the celebration of diverse cultures, creating a rich and memorable experience for all attendees.





## National Seminar

# 'Habitat, Society and Economy of Scheduled Tribes of Northwest Bharat'



भारतीय इतिहास अनुसंधान परिषद्, नई दिल्ली

द्वारा प्रायोजित

## राष्ट्रीय परिसंवाद

पश्चिमोत्तर भारत की अनुसूचित जन-जातियों का समाज, पर्यावास और अर्थव्यवस्था

**Habitat, Society and Economy of Scheduled Tribes of Northwest Bharat**

कलियुगाब्द 5125, विक्रमी संवत् 2080, वैशाख शुक्ल 02-03 (22-23 अप्रैल, 2023)

**आयोजक**

ठाकुर रामसिंह इतिहास शोध संस्थान नेरी, हमीरपुर (हि.प्र.)

एवं

इतिहास विभाग एवं भूगोल विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय शिमला (हि.प्र.),

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सांस्कृतिक अध्ययन केंद्र (ICCS)

### Synopsis

A National Seminar with the theme 'Habitat, Society and Economy of Scheduled Tribes of Northwest Bharat' was organized at Thakur Ramsingh Itihaas Shodh Sansthan, Neri, Hamirpur on April 22nd and 23rd , 2023. The seminar was funded by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), Government of India. It was organized in collaboration with the Departments of Geography and History at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, and the International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS), Government of India.

The inaugural session of the seminar commenced with the lighting of the lamp by Smt.Indu Bala Goswami, Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha. During her speech, she highlighted the various development programs initiated by the Government for the betterment of Scheduled Tribes in the region.

Prof. S P Bansal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, presided over the session and addressed the audience, providing motivation and encouragement to the researchers. Dr. Chet Ram, Director of Thakur Ramsingh Itihaas Shodh Sansthan, Neri, Dr. Ankush Bhardwaj (the convener of the seminar), Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of History, and Dr. B.R. Thakur (the organizing secretary of the seminar), Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Geography at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, were also present.





अनुराग सिंह ठाकुर  
ANURAG SINGH THAKUR



सत्यमेव जयते

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मंत्री  
सूचना एवं प्रसारण और  
युवा कार्यक्रम व खेल  
भारत सरकार  
MINISTER  
INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND  
YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

## संदेश

मुझे यह जानकर अत्यन्त प्रसन्नता हुई है कि ठाकुर रामसिंह इतिहास शोध संस्थान नेरी, हमीरपुर द्वारा 'पश्चिमोत्तर भारत की अनुसूचित जन-जातियों का समाज, पर्यावास एवं अर्थव्यवस्था' विषय पर दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय परिसंवाद आयोजित किया जा रहा है तथा इस अवसर पर शोध संस्थान नेरी परिसंवाद की शोध स्मारिका का प्रकाशन भी किया जा रहा है।

भारत के पश्चिमोत्तर क्षेत्र में बहुत-सी जनजातियों के लोग निवास करते हैं। इन जनजातियों की सामाजिक, धार्मिक, सांस्कृतिक व आर्थिक स्थिति में विविधता है, परन्तु मौलिक एकता भी विद्यमान है। अतः इस पर शोध होना अति महत्त्वपूर्ण है। इस परिसंवाद में अनुसूचित जनजातियों से सम्बन्धित विभिन्न विषय उभरकर सामने आएंगे। संस्थान द्वारा समाजोत्थान में किए जा रहे कार्य अत्यन्त सराहनीय हैं। आशा करता हूँ कि यह संस्थान जनजातियों के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण, लैंगिक समानता, महिला सशक्तिकरण, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य सहित अनेकों कार्य उत्थान की ओर निरन्तर प्रयास व प्रगति करता रहेगा।

मैं उक्त संस्थान के पूरे परिवार व राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भाग लेने वाले विद्वानों को हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ तथा स्मारिका के सफल आयोजन के लिए अपनी शुभकामनाएं प्रेषित करता हूँ।

(अनुराग सिंह ठाकुर)



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The session concluded with a vote of thanks, proposed by Shri. Surender Nath Sharma, Director of Thakur Ramsingh Itihaas Shodh Sansthan. This marked the beginning of a scholarly event that aimed to explore the habitat, society, and economy of Scheduled Tribes in the northwest region of Bharat (India). The collaboration between academic institutions, research organizations, and government bodies underscored the significance of the seminar in addressing important issues related to tribal communities.

## Highlights

The seminar encompassed five sessions during which a total of 57 research papers were presented by participants representing various regions of India. These research papers were contributed by scholars from 11 states and two union territories, namely Jammu & Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, and Himachal Pradesh.

The valedictory session of the seminar featured esteemed individuals. Prof. (Dr.) Sikander Kumar, a Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha, held the position of the Chief Guest. Prof. Shashi Bala, who is a Member of the G-20 International Advisory Committee, presided over the session. In addition to the chief guest and presiding member, the valedictory session also included guests of honour: Shri. Anil Kant, Shri. Satish Kumar Sharma, and Shri. Vijay Arora. The latter three are renowned social workers hailing from New Delhi.

The presence of these distinguished individuals in the valedictory session added to the significance of the seminar's conclusion. It highlighted the collaborative and cross-regional nature of the event, showcasing the collective efforts of scholars, researchers, and social workers from diverse parts of India to discuss and share insights on the habitat, society, and economy of Scheduled Tribes in the northwest region of the country.

## Focus Areas

The seminar had the following focus areas:

- **Conservation of Traditional Culture and Historicity:** The seminar aimed to address the conservation of traditional cultural practices and historical heritage among Scheduled Tribes in the northwest region. This involved discussing ways to preserve and protect cultural traditions from the past.
- **Documentation and Preservation:** Scholars and participants engaged in discussions about the importance of documenting and preserving cultural artifacts, practices, and knowledge that are integral to the identity and history of the Scheduled Tribes.



- **Revisiting Indigenous Understanding:** The seminar encouraged a revisit of indigenous perspectives and understanding in light of modern challenges. This involves looking back at traditional wisdom and knowledge to find relevance and solutions in contemporary times.
- **Embracing Modernity and Mainstream Society:** An important focus was on finding ways for indigenous communities to integrate with modern society while preserving their cultural heritage. Scholars and participants explored methods to strike a balance between retaining traditional values and embracing the opportunities of the modern world.
- **Scholarly Activities and Idea Sharing:** The seminar provided a platform for scholars, researchers, and social workers from diverse regions to come together and engage in scholarly discussions. The exchange of ideas facilitated a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by Scheduled Tribes in the northwest region.

Thus, the seminar sought to bridge the gap between traditional practices and modernity, while fostering a deeper understanding of the cultural, historical, and societal dynamics among Scheduled Tribes. This collective effort aimed to contribute to the preservation of unique cultural heritage and to the integration of indigenous communities into the broader fabric of society.

### Technical Session-1

The technical session-1 of the seminar, chaired by Prof. Chander Mohan Parshira from the Institute of Vocational Studies, HPU, Shimla, and Prof. Arun K. Singh from the Department of History, HPU, Shimla, a total of 7 speakers presented their research on various aspects of tribal societies. The session focused on topics such as indigenous knowledge, identification formation, history, culture, educational attainment, socio-economic development and the impact of development on tribal communities. Below is a summary of the presentations:

- **Indigenous Knowledge among Tribal Communities:** Dr. Subhajit Chaudhary from IIT, Guwahati, Assam, presented on indigenous knowledge among tribal communities in the undivided Golpara district of Assam. He highlighted how tribal groups in this region have lifestyles that are harmonious with nature and promote environmental sustainability.
- **Educational Status among Scheduled Tribes:** Dr. Suman Negi from NIEPA, New Delhi, discussed the educational status among scheduled tribes in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The study analysed enrolment, dropout ratios, and literacy levels, comparing male-female disparities and changes over time.
- **Identification Formation among Gujjars:** Dr. Bindu Sahani examined the identification formation among Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh, focusing on their religious aspects and migration patterns. The study explored the worship practices that help identify different groups of Gujjars.



- **Implementation of Tribal Sub Plan in Rajasthan:** Dr. Mehendara Singh Rao from Centre for Budget and Governance, New Delhi, discussed the implementation of the Tribal Sub Plan in Rajasthan. The study addressed the gaps, issues, and challenges in effectively allocating and utilizing the budget for tribal development.
- **Sustainability Inquiries for Tribal Status:** Dr. Krishan Mohan Pandey from the Department of Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh, raised questions about the duration of maintaining tribal status without a clear plan for its conclusion.
- **Spatial Inequalities in Socio-economic Development:** Shri Sanjeev Kumar from HPU presented on spatial inequalities in socio-economic development in Bharmour block of Himachal Pradesh. The study explored factors contributing to lower development levels among the Gaddi tribe.
- **History and Culture of Bhil Community:** Dr. Kailash Gujjar from MLSU Udaipur discussed the history and culture of the Bhil community in Rajasthan. The study highlighted their roles in the state's history, their cultural characteristics, and the impact of colonial rule on their traditions.
- **Impact of Development on Scheduled Tribes:** Dr. Manoj Kumar from Govt. College, Hisar, Haryana, presented on the impact of development on Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan. The study examined changes in population, literacy, educational attainment, and work participation among tribal populations.

The chairman of the session, Prof. Chander Mohan Parshira, provided insights and appreciation for the presentations. The session concluded with the distribution of certificates to the speakers. This technical session provided a comprehensive overview of various aspects related to tribal societies, ranging from education and development to history, culture, and identity formation.







## Technical Session-2

The technical session-2 of the seminar commenced after a tea break, focusing on the theme "Habitat, Society, and Economy". This session was jointly chaired by Dr. Subhajit Chaudhary from IIT, Assam, and Dr. K. Chandereep, a historian from the Central University of Himachal Pradesh. During this session, a total of seven presentations were made, shedding light on various aspects related to the habitat, society, and economy of Scheduled tribes in northwest Bharat (India). Here's a summary of the presentations:

- **Traditional Dresses and Ornaments in Himachal Pradesh:** Dr. Surat Thakur from Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh presented on the topic "Himachal Pradesh ki janjaitya veshbhusa and abhushan." The presenter highlighted the significance of traditional dresses and ornaments in the lives of Scheduled tribes in the region, especially in extreme and challenging climatic conditions. The presentation emphasized the role of traditional attire and ornaments in maintaining cultural identity.
- **Material Cultural Traits of the Hatti Community:** Dr. Sarita Verma from Himachal Pradesh University discussed the material cultural traits of the Hatti Community in the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh. She delved into aspects such as folk dress, ornaments, food, handicrafts, house types, roof styles, and folk art that contribute to the cultural identity of the Hatti Community.
- **Political History and Challenges of Pangti Scheduled Area:** Dr. Vijay Singh from H.P. University, Shimla presented on the "Political history of Pangti scheduled area: Challenges and way forward." He examined the political history of the Pangti scheduled area and highlighted challenges related to its geographic isolation, accessibility, and representation. The presenter suggested considering these issues during upcoming delimitation processes.
- **Nature Worship Among the Khasi Tribe:** Shri Triborlang Dkhar, a Ph.D. Scholar from the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, discussed "Animism among the Khasi tribe with special reference to Lyngdoh Raid Shabong." The presentation provided insights into the religious beliefs and rituals of the Khasi tribe, focusing on their nature worship practices.
- **Unemployment and Migration Among Tribal Communities:** Shri Ankit Kumar from the Central University of Himachal Pradesh highlighted issues of unemployment and migration among tribal communities, emphasizing the challenges faced by these communities in terms of economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.
- **Contribution of Bhotia Scheduled Tribal Community in Bharat-Tibet Trade:** Shri Yash Pal presented on the "Contribution of Bhotia scheduled tribal community of Uttarakhand in Bharat-Tibet Trade." The presentation discussed the historical role of the Bhotia community in trade relations between India and Tibet, particularly using horse mules for trade purposes.
- **Role of Ancient Trade Among Bhotias:** Dr. Sushil Kumar presented his views on the "Role of ancient trade among Bhotias." The presentation highlighted the historical trade relationships between the Bhotia tribes and Tibet, which were described by ancient texts like those by Kalidasa.



At the conclusion of each presentation, the session chairpersons, Dr. Subhajit Chaudhary and Dr. K. Chandereep, provided valuable insights and appreciation for the speakers' work. The session concluded with the distribution of certificates to the paper presenters. This session provided a deep dive into various aspects of the habitat, society, and economy of Scheduled tribes in the northwest Bharat region, offering valuable perspectives on their cultural practices, history, and contributions to trade and society.



### Technical Session-3

During the technical session 3, the focus remained on the cultural, socio-economic, and linguistic aspects of the Pangwal and Gaddi tribes in Himachal Pradesh. The session was chaired by Dr. Manoj Kumar (Associate Professor in Geography) and Dr. Shashi Poonam (Associate Professor in Social Work, CUHP).

The presentations included:

- **Fairs and Festivals of Himachal Pradesh:** Shri Pritam Singh from Central University of Himachal Pradesh discussed the significance of fairs and festivals within the Pangwal



community. Based on secondary sources of data, the presentation highlighted the cultural importance of these events in the lives of the Pangwal community and their representation of the community's identity.

- **Origin of Kinnaura Tribe and Place of Women:** Shri Sidharth from Central University of Himachal Pradesh presented on the origin of the Kinnaura Tribe and the role of women within the tribe. The presentation, based entirely on secondary sources of data, emphasized the unique historical and cultural aspects of the Kinnaura Tribe's origin due to its geographical location and practices.
- **Impact of Sanskrit Language on Gadyali Dialect:** Dr. Manoj from Govt. College Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, explored the impact of Sanskrit language on the Gadyali dialect. The study, based on secondary sources of data, demonstrated how certain Sanskrit words have left visible imprints in the Gadyali dialect, highlighting the linguistic interactions and influences.
- During the sessions, the presenters addressed questions from the audience, clarifying the authenticity of their sources and discussing the potential impact of their studies on the local communities. The session was a platform for scholarly exchange and dialogue, fostering understanding and awareness of the unique cultural and socio-economic aspects of the tribes in Himachal Pradesh.
- Dr. Manoj Kumar, the session's chairperson, provided insights into the topics presented and commended the speakers for their contributions. He concluded the seminar by expressing gratitude to all participants, presenters, scholars, and attendees, highlighting the seminar's success in promoting understanding of the socio-economic and environmental issues within the region. Dr. Kumar emphasized the importance of continuing research efforts and collaborations to ensure sustainable development and conservation of the region's natural resources.

The session ended with the distribution of certificates to the paper presenters and attendees, marking the culmination of the event. The seminar succeeded in creating a platform for valuable discussions, sharing of ideas, and enhancing awareness about the cultural, social, and environmental dimensions of the scheduled tribes in northwest Bharat.





## Technical Session-4

The fourth technical session of the seminar began on April 23rd 2023, at 10:00 AM. The session was chaired by Dr. Chanderdeep Singh from Central University of Himachal Pradesh and Dr. Surat Thakur from Kullu. During this session, a total of 20 research papers were presented by scholars from various institutes across the country. The papers in this session focused on various aspects of habitat, society, culture, and economy of tribes.

The research papers addressed a range of topics, including how tribes adapt to their natural surroundings, the development of their culture over time, the significance of material and non-material cultural elements, and the impact of policies on tribal welfare. Dr. Surat Thakur set the expectation that presenters should adhere to the allotted time for their presentations.

The first presentation was by Dr. Negi, which emphasized the importance of language as a crucial non-material cultural element in preserving and promoting Tibetan culture. He highlighted that language plays a primary role in the development of culture.

Shri Aashish Kumar's presentation focused on the history and significance of the Nwala tradition in the lives of tribal people. He explained the origins and purpose of the Nwala festival, a ritual dedicated to Lord Shiva. He detailed the cultural and religious significance of this tradition, including the performance of Ainchallis, the songs depicting the life of Shiva, and dance.

Several other presentations followed, each delving into various aspects of tribal cultures, practices, and adaptations:

- **Preeti:** Discussed the major deities of the Gaddi tribe and their importance in the daily lives of tribal people.
- **Ravindra Kumari:** Explored the cultural and economic aspects of the Kinnaura tribe in Himachal Pradesh, with a focus on the cultivation of coarse grains and their medicinal values.
- **Pooja Devi:** Highlighted the various Sanskar/rituals of the Gaddi tribe throughout different stages of life.
- **Abhishek Sharma:** Explored the social and cultural legacy of the Gaddi tribe, focusing on traditional attire as a means of preserving cultural heritage.
- **Shivani:** Explored the socio-economic challenges faced by the Gurjar community of Himachal Pradesh, particularly in terms of education and employment opportunities.

These presentations covered a diverse range of topics, from cultural practices and rituals to socio-economic conditions and traditional attire.

The session provided a platform for researchers to share their findings and insights, facilitating a



deeper understanding of the intricate cultural, social, and economic dimensions of various tribes. The diverse array of presentations contributed to a holistic exploration of tribal life and the challenges and developments they face. The session ended with certificates being distributed to the participants, marking the successful conclusion of the fourth technical session and fostering a space for future researchers to further explore these areas of study.

### Technical Session-5

The fifth technical session of the seminar was chaired by Shri M.R. Sharma and Prof. Sonu Ram, with Shri Sanjeev Kumar serving as the technical coordinator. Research scholars from various colleges and universities presented a total of nine research papers during this session.

The presentations covered a range of topics related to tribes, their languages, cultures, historical backgrounds, and socio-economic conditions:

- **Dr. Puran Chand:** Presented a paper on "Mother Tongue Diversity in Tribes of Indian Himalayas: A Spatial-Temporal Analysis." The presenter discussed the variety of mother languages spoken by different tribes in the Indian Himalayas, utilizing census data.
- **Suresh Kumar:** Presented on "Inclusion of Hattee Community from the Trans-Giri Region in Scheduled Tribe List." The presentation focused on the historical background of the Hattee community, the challenges they face, and the importance of granting them tribal status.
- **Bhagirath:** Discussed the major tribes of India, delving into their history and culture.
- **Bhavna Devi:** Presented her work on the Gaddi tribe of Chamba district. She provided insights into the tribe's origin, cultural traits, food habits, marriage system, ornaments, and occupation.
- **Pooja Devi (Assistant Professor):** Presented on "Heritage Handicrafts of Gaddi Tribe of Himachal Pradesh," shedding light on the traditional ornaments and dresses of the Gaddi tribe.
- **Alam Chand:** Shared his research on the Lahaula tribe of Himachal Pradesh. He highlighted how the Lahaulas are preserving their culture, traditions, language, and rules of conduct in the modern world.
- **Taj Bibi:** Presented on "The Impact of Modernisation on the Lifestyle of Gaddi Tribe." She discussed the changing lifestyle practices of the Gaddi tribe due to modernization.
- **Anita Devi (Research Scholar from Sardar Patel University, Mandi):** Presented her work on the Khampa tribe, focusing on the socio-economic condition of the tribe and the influence of Hindu religion on their culture.
- **Kesang (Delhi University):** Presented a paper on "Economy, Tourism, and Eco-fragile Culture of the Tribe of Spiti." The presentation highlighted the negative impacts of tourism on tribal communities, including the rise of narcotics and its detrimental effects on culture.



At the conclusion of the session, Prof. Sonu Ram provided positive feedback and suggestions for the presenters. He emphasized the importance of precision in their work and adhering to appropriate research methodologies. Prof. M.R. Sharma thanked all the researchers for their participation and encouraged them to continue their hard work in the field of research. He also emphasized the use of the latest technology for research purposes. The session ended with the distribution of certificates to the researchers, marking the successful completion of the fifth technical session.

### Valedictory Session

The valedictory session took place at the Uttam Devi Auditorium at 12:00 noon, marking the successful conclusion of the two-day seminar. The session was attended by various dignitaries, including Prof. (Dr.) Sikander Kumar, Hon'ble Member of the Rajya Sabha, Government of India, who was the chief guest. Prof. Shashi Bala, Member of the International Advisory Committee, presided over the session. The guests of honour included Shri. Anil Kant, Shri. Satish Kumar Sharma, and Shri. Vijay Arora, all social workers from New Delhi. During the valedictory session, the distinguished guests shared their insightful perspectives on the central theme of the seminar, which added an educational dimension to the conclusion of the event. The valedictory session also aimed to inspire new research opportunities in the realms of culture, habitat, economy, and other aspects of indigenous societies.

### Recommendations

- **Socio-economic Development of Scheduled Tribes:** Scheduled tribes of northwest Bharat are at varying stages of socioeconomic development, simultaneously preserving their historical roots while embracing modernity.
- **Conservation of Traditional Culture:** Traditional cultures of scheduled communities can be conserved through the celebration of their ancient fairs, festivals, music, dance, and cuisines.
- **Indigenous Understanding:** There's a need to reconsider the nomenclature of tribes from an indigenous perspective rather than solely adhering to the Western viewpoint.
- **Scheduling Policy Re-evaluation:** Reevaluating scheduling policies and extending benefits to similar communities, such as Churahi in Chamba District.



- **Documentation and Preservation:** Efforts should be made to document and preserve tribal history and culture through scholarly writings, books, and dictionaries on tribal dialects and languages.
- **Descheduling and Integration:** Consider rescheduling already developed tribal areas and integrating them into mainstream society.
- **Educational Initiatives:** Organize more seminars, workshops, and conclaves at the local level to foster a deeper understanding of tribal issues and social formations.

The event not only provided a platform for sharing research but also aimed to stimulate further research endeavors in the field by inspiring participants through the knowledge shared during the seminar.





## DIMR webinars (online Chaupals)



### Highlights

The working group Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect organized 12 Chaupals online where 842 people participated. 8 webinars were organized by Vivekananda Kendra, 1 by Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture and 3 were organized by International Council for Cultural Studies. Below is a list of Chaupals organized by this Working Group.

### CIVIL 20\_CHAUPALS (ONLINE)

Sl. No	Date	Location	Organisation/Institution	Total Participants	Indian Delegates	Foreign Delegates
1	13th Jan	Webinar	VK	20	20	0
2	20th Jan	Webinar	VK	15	15	0
3	29th Jan	Webinar	VK	22	22	0
4	14th Feb	Webinar	VK	15	15	0
5	19th Feb	Webinar	VK	15	15	0
6	6th March	Webinar	ICCS, Mahindol University	50	48	2
7	7th March	Webinar	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	550	540	10
8	11th March	Webinar	VK	15	15	0
9	15th March	Webinar	VK	16	16	0
10	5th April	Webinar	VK	15	15	0
11	17th June	Webinar	ICCS, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan	70	66	4
12	1st July	Webinar	ICCS, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Flowering Tree-USA, Singapore, India, Karma Foundation	40	28	12

#### Note:

VK - Vivekananda Kendra

ICCS - International Center for Cultural Studies



## Some Major Webinars

**Webinar**

### Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect

07 MARCH 2023 | 5:00 PM IST

वैश्वेय कुटुम्बकम्  
ONE EARTH - ONE FAMILY - ONE FUTURE

### Highlights

- Date: 7th March 2023
- Organizers -Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture
- Total Participants - 550
- Indian Delegates - 540
- Foreign Delegates - 10

### Recommendations

- Earlier the world was talking about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion. But some difficulties were noticed. Extreme efforts provoked hatred, jealousy instead of harmony led to exclusion.
- Diversity, Inclusion not at cost of animosity. Hence working theme is proved and thus added Mutual respect.

**DIMR Webinar**

Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture  
7 videos 34 views Last updated on Apr 8, 2023

Play all Shuffle

- 1 Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect | #Nivedita R. Bhide | #c20  
Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture · 26:28
- 2 Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect | Dr. Shashi Bala | #c20  
Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture · 20:28
- 3 Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect | Dr. Joram Begi | #c20  
Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture · 14:21
- 4 Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect | R. Ramakrishnan | #c20  
Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture · 13:48
- 5 Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect | Prof. Bhagat Oinam | #c20  
Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture · 17:34
- 6 Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect | Swami Paramatmananda Ji | #c20  
Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture · 27:29





- Diversity is the law of nature which becomes acceptable mutually.
- India is one of the most diverse countries of the world where her culture is based on the vision of Oneness and she looks at all with a spirit of interdependent, interrelated and interconnected. This has been India's lived experience and would like to add this dimension to the G20 theme.
- Inclusion should not lead to exclusion. It should genuinely lead to everyone's inclusion.
- For Example: Issue of Gender selection without sufficient data, children are asked to select gender. Commercialization has entered leading to irreversible gender reversals. When even to vote a particular age is prescribed how can a child be asked to choose a permanent choice of gender?
- Short Termism-What is the long-term effect to short term policy decisions is a need to be thought. Long term effect on individual, community and environment.
- One more course correction is the universalization of some terms. For example, 1951 UN resolutions of development realized that "No one size fits all".
- Minority cannot be in national context but in global context.
- Human Rights is one such term where in 2005, G20 realized that there cannot be uniform approach to it rather has diversity with culture and community.


- Traditional communities have no voice for them to develop confidently along their line of genius.
- India's presidency will bring in the spiritual development as of equal importance to material development. As popularly said in India: *Loka Samastha sukhino Bhavantu*
- Respecting traditional communities all over the world must be taken as a policy by all governments all over the globe. The ideal approach must be of long termism, diversity as truth of existence that we are all interconnected, interrelated, and interdependent.


**INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR**  
ON  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**


SPEAKERS


  
**Mr. George Ngatai**  
New Zealand

  
**Ms. Thanamonphan Khueanpanya**  
Thailand

  
**Mr. Chrisol Ballagan Catalino**  
Philippines

  
**Priest Mr. Argishti**  
Armenia

  
**Ms. Gayaneh Chalukyan**  
Armenia

  
**Ms. Adriana Salazar Vega**  
Columbia

09 August, 2023, 2.00 to 6.30 PM (IST)

Contact for Zoom Link

Sh. Ravi Shankar (8076624400)

Dr. Manish Shrimall (8005816971)

All Participants who successfully participate in the International Webinar and submit the feedback form will be provided the E-Certificate.





## Leading Lights from Diverse Spiritual Paths – A webinar



"Leading Lights from Diverse Spiritual Paths" a webinar was organized on the sidelines of the C20 summit by various organizations focused on promoting unity, diversity, and mutual respect. The event featured esteemed spiritual leaders from various traditions who shared their insights and wisdom on fostering harmony and understanding in a global society. The program seems to have been rich with spiritual discourse and teachings that emphasize the oneness of all paths, the importance of love, compassion, empathy, and tolerance, and the need for individuals to come together as a universal voice to propagate these values.



The event brought together spiritual luminaries such as Swami Paramatmananda Saraswati ji, Acharya Lokesh Muni ji, Swami Avyayananda Saraswati ji, BK Asha Didi, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati ji, Dr. Chinmay Pandya ji, Gailé Vanagiené, and Sadguru Cyriaque Vallee, who shared their perspectives on embracing diversity, living in harmony, and promoting positive change in the world.





The event's focus on "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," the ancient Indian concept of the world as one family, is a beautiful reminder of the interconnectedness of all beings. The recitation of Vedic shlokas, chanting, and the concluding prayer ("Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu") (The C20 video of the same shloka can be put here ) further highlight the spiritual and holistic nature of the program.

**WATCH NOW** ▶



Various organizations like the International Centre for Cultural Studies, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and Karma Foundation were involved in organizing the webinar. Prof. Shashi Bala and other well-known individuals came together in promoting the values of inclusivity, respect and unity on a global platform. Such initiatives play a crucial role in fostering understanding and cooperation among diverse cultures and belief systems.

Thus, the webinar was a meaningful and enlightening gathering that aimed to bridge spiritual traditions, encourage dialogue, and promote a harmonious and compassionate world.



# Listening Globally, Listening Locally – Diverse Perspectives on Education

## Background

**Date:** July 1, 2023

**Venue:** Online

## Organizations that participated:

- [Flowering Tree Inc. New York, USA.](#)
- [Multiple Action Research Group. New Delhi, India.](#)
- [Light of Life Trust, Mumbai, India.](#)
- [Manav Sadhna, Ahmedabad, India.](#)
- [I-India. Jaipur, India.](#)

- Total Participants: 60
- Foreign national: 10
- Online Views: 726 (July 15, 2023)
- Total no of speakers: 7

## Highlights

During the event, Flowering Tree, an organization dedicated to promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect in the civil sector, presented its unique approach to education. The organization shared its insights and experiences through case studies and videos that highlighted their efforts in both formal and non-formal education projects. Here is a breakdown of the key points presented by various speakers:

- **Sumita Ambasta, Founder of Flowering Tree:** Sumita Ambasta discussed

Flowering Tree's educational approach, which centers around Culturally Relevant Pedagogy. She emphasized the significance of practical implementation over theoretical concepts in the design and execution of educational projects.

- **Christopher McLeod, Founder of Flowering Tree:** Christopher McLeod highlighted the ethical practice of listening as a transformative tool in the development sector. This practice involves genuinely understanding and responding to the needs and voices of the communities being served.
- **Md. Noor Alam, Executive Director of Multiple Action Research Group:** Md. Noor Alam shared insights from Project Harshingar, which focuses on legal literacy and active citizenship for women. The project successfully blends local culture with Indian democracy within an international rights framework.
- **Mrs. Villy Doctor, Founder of Light of Life Trust:** Mrs. Villy Doctor emphasized the importance of arts education, including music, dance, and meditation, for holistic child development. She discussed Project Anant, which operates in rural Maharashtra and aims to nurture children through artistic and meditative practices.
- **Mr. Viren Joshi, Founder of Manav Sadhna US and Manav Sadhna India:** Mr. Viren Joshi shared insights from Project Manav Gulzar, a community development



initiative in a multi-religious community in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. He discussed the transition from non-formal to formal education, which relied on community values and interventions.

- **Mr. Prabhakar Joshi, Founder of I-India:** Mr. Prabhakar Joshi focused on the education of street children and highlighted the pivotal roles of family and community in transforming the lives of children from migrant communities.

Through these presentations showcased how education promotes diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect. The case studies and examples offered by different speakers demonstrated how education can be tailored to local contexts, incorporate cultural nuances, and empower marginalized communities. The organization's approach underscores the role of education in fostering positive change and creating a more inclusive and harmonious society.

## Recommendations

Based on the successful case studies presented during the event, several recommendations were made to enhance education, development, and community engagement. These recommendations are grounded in evidence and reflect the lessons learned from the implementation of diverse projects:

- **Holistic Education for Sustainability:** Education should encompass not only skill-building for adapting to a changing

world but also the development of psychological and spiritual well-being. A balanced approach that nurtures both inner and outer growth is essential for sustainable education.

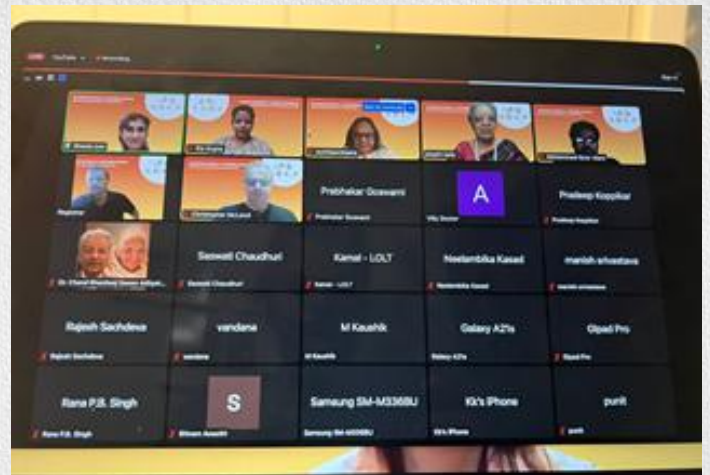
- **Culturally Relevant Pedagogy:** Education focusing on diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect should adopt culturally relevant pedagogy. Collaborative efforts with local practitioners can help develop teaching methods that resonate with local cultural contexts.
- **Ethical Listening in Development Work:** Ethical listening should be integrated as a core practice in development work. Active engagement and understanding of local perspectives aid in effectively adapting global policies to local realities.
- **Contextualized Ecological Programs:** Sustainable educational and development initiatives should align with the specific needs and challenges of the local population. Incorporating the local context is crucial for the success of ecological programs.
- **Service and Experiential Education:** Service and experiential education should be integrated into school curricula to sensitize children to diverse contexts. This exposure helps broaden their understanding beyond their immediate surroundings.
- **Citizenship Education with Gender Focus:** Citizenship education should be included in school curricula, addressing important topics like civic responsibilities. Moreover, gender



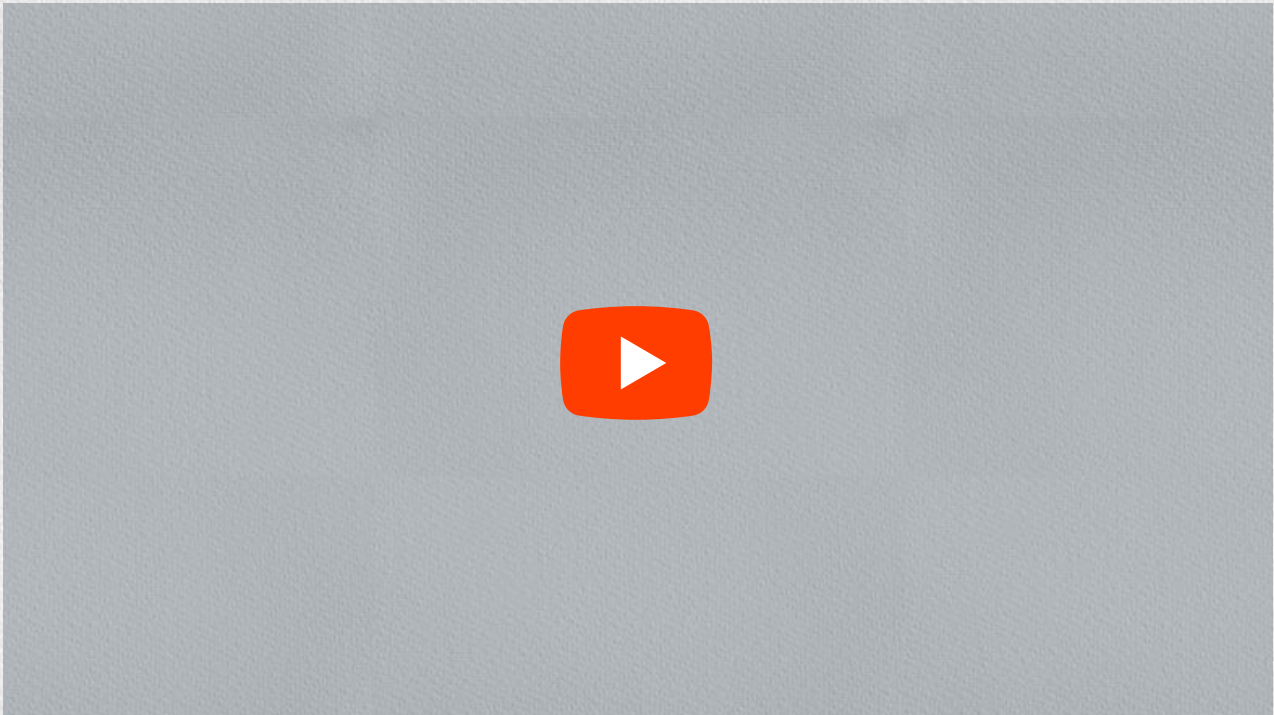
perspectives should be incorporated to promote equality and awareness.

- **Inclusion of Arts Education:** Arts education, encompassing music, dance, and other creative outlets, should be integrated into the curriculum to foster the holistic development of students.
- **Emphasis on Human Values and Community Living:** The school curriculum should emphasize human values that encourage community living, collaboration, and empathy among students.
- **Community and Family-Centric Education:** Education programs for vulnerable populations should incorporate components of community development and family engagement to create a comprehensive support system.

These recommendations are informed by the practical experiences and successes shared in the case studies. They underscore the importance of a well-rounded, culturally sensitive, and community-focused approach to education and development that nurtures both individuals and the larger society.









# SAMAJSHALAS

C20 Samajshalas, an unique initiative where different sections of the society are involved to spread awareness about Volunteerism, Sustainable Development Goals through different events like Talks, Seminars, Conclaves etc.

The working group Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect (DIMR) organised over 46 Samajshalas covering 19 States of India, involving 6539 participants worldwide.

## SOME MAJOR SAMAJSHALAS

### Indraprastha Talks: On Our Shared Heritage Legacies

#### Background

**Date** - 27th July 2023

**Organizers** - International Centre for Cultural Studies, Shri Draupadi Dream Trust, New Delhi

**Venue** - India International Centre, New Delhi

**Number of Participants** - 150

**Foreign Nationals** - 20

**Recommendations** - Quarterly programs with foreign ambassadors should be organised for mutual understanding resulting in strengthening international linkages establishing harmony and cordiality.

#### Highlights

- The Draupadi Dream Trust in celebrating its 20th year while promoting the strong Vedic concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (one world, one family, one future) and saluting the heritage, culture, and history of humanity. The collaboration with eminent organizations like the International Center for Cultural Studies and being part of C20, a component of the G20 program, highlights the significance of the Trust's work in promoting diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect.
- The special program of Indraprastha Talks, featuring Ambassadors of Kutumbakam countries discussing shared heritage legacies, sounds like a valuable initiative for fostering cultural connections and mutual understanding among diverse nations. The fact that the program was inaugurated by the



Honourable Lok Sabha speaker, Shri Om Birla, adds to its significance. The preview of the upcoming exhibition on "Tribal Art of Bharat" and its unveiling during the event further showcases the Trust's dedication to promoting and preserving various forms of heritage.

- The involvement of esteemed figures like Prof. Neera Misra and Prof. Shashi Bala from ICCS reflects the importance of collaboration and shared values in promoting cultural understanding and unity.

## Proceedings of the Event

### 1st Session

- The event commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting ceremony, symbolizing the illumination of knowledge and wisdom. The Honourable Speaker was then greeted with a traditional welcome, orchestrated by Shri Ranjeet Chaturvedi, who led the proceedings of the day's event. Prof. Neera Misra, the Chairperson of Draupadi Dream Trust, delivered the formal welcome address after the traditional welcome.
- A short film was presented, showcasing the Trust's remarkable 20-year journey and its involvement in the G20 program under C20. Following the film, Prof. Neera Misra once again extended her welcome to the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Honourable Speaker of Lok Sabha for gracing the program in honour of Maharani Draupadi. Her words emphasized that the Speaker's presence not only honoured Maharani Draupadi but every woman in the country and the world.
- During her address, Prof. Neera Misra shared insights into her work within the international community and highlighted the significant role of women in the development sector. The formal presentation of the flags representing G20 and C20 was then conducted, with flags presented to both the Honourable Speaker and the Chairperson of Draupadi Dream Trust.
- Subsequently, a pre-recorded presentation by Prof. Shashi Bala took place, focusing on the concept of "Shakti Tattva" (the essence of feminine energy) across the world. This presentation likely highlighted the significance and representation of feminine power and energy in different cultures and societies.
- The Honourable Speaker was then invited to deliver the inaugural address, where he would likely share his thoughts on the theme of the event, the importance of preserving and celebrating cultural heritage, and possibly touch upon the role of women in society and development.
- Shri Om Birla ji's words during the event conveyed a deep sense of admiration and



appreciation for Maharani Draupadi and the Chairperson Prof. Neera Misra's efforts in promoting Indian history and culture. He described Maharani Draupadi as an inspiration for Indian women, highlighting her courage in combating societal injustices. He lauded Prof. Neera Misra for her dedicated work and emphasized the importance of reconnecting with India's rich civilization, history, and culture.

- Shri Om Birla ji stressed the significance of ancient narratives like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, noting how these stories have been an integral part of every Indian household. These stories of valour and heroism have transcended generations and continue to inspire people. He acknowledged that scholars have been diligently researching various historical personalities, contributing to the preservation, and understanding of India's cultural heritage.
- He commended Prof. Neera Misra for her profound work in unearthing details about Maharani Draupadi's life and challenges. He acknowledged her intensive research and dedicated efforts over the past two decades, seeing it as a shining example of women's contributions to nation-building. Shri Om Birla ji's words reflected a strong endorsement of the Trust's mission to promote and honour India's historical and cultural legacy through the lens of an important and often underrepresented figure like Maharani Draupadi.
- As the inaugural session ended the Trustee, Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Rajesh Lal was invited to deliver the vote of thanks. This gesture aimed to express gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the event, including the Chief Guest, dignitaries, participants, and organizers. The vote of thanks likely acknowledged the collective efforts that went into making the event a meaningful and memorable experience.
- Following the vote of thanks, the Moderator wrapped up the ceremony. This final segment typically involved summarizing the key points of the event, expressing gratitude once again to all involved, and officially marking the end of the session. The departure of the Honourable Chief Guest marked the conclusion of the event's formal proceedings.

Overall, the inaugural session appears to have been well-structured, encompassing elements such as welcoming rituals, speeches, presentations, token of appreciation, and concluding remarks. It provided a platform to honour and celebrate Indian heritage and culture while highlighting the contributions of significant historical figures like Maharani Draupadi.

## 2nd Session

- The second half of the program commenced after a tea break and was moderated by Shri. Ranjeet Chaturvedi. Smt. Manika Jain, Additional Secretary (DE), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the keynote address. The session then moved on to the



Ambassadors' talks, which were a highlight of the event. Various Ambassadors and foreign dignitaries shared their perspectives on shared heritage legacies and trans-cultural connections across the world.

- The Ambassadors' talk segment was described as delightful and captivating, with each Ambassador presenting their unique viewpoints on the significance of shared cultural heritage. One particularly interesting example was shared by the Ambassador of Indonesia, who elaborated on the cultural influence of the Ramayana and Mahabharata epics on naming practices in contemporary Indonesia. This showcased how ancient narratives continue to have a meaningful impact on cultural aspects in different regions.
- Diplomats and foreign dignitaries from various countries, including Palestine, Rwanda, Thailand, Romania, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Fiji, and Georgia, participated in the program. They expressed their views on the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and its relevance to shared heritage. In recognition of their participation and contributions, these foreign dignitaries were honoured with traditional shawls and replicas of Parvati, symbolizing respect for their engagement with Indian culture.
- The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Shri. Vishnu Kant Chaturvedi, a Trustee of Draupadi Dream Trust. This gesture likely expressed appreciation to all attendees, speakers, and participants for their involvement. The guests were then invited to join for lunch.
- The event's significance was further elevated by the presence of Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharya, the president of Gandhi Museum and the granddaughter of Raja Gopalachari ji and Mahatma Gandhi. Her attendance and participation in the program underscored the depth of cultural and historical connections being celebrated.
- The event was meticulously organized, bringing together diverse elements such as traditional rituals, formal presentations, and insightful speeches to honour heritage, culture, and the role of women. The presence of esteemed individuals like the Honourable Speaker and prominent figures from the Draupadi Dream Trust and International Centre for Cultural Studies indicates the event's significance and the impact it aimed to create.





**SRI SRI**  
**|| DRAUPADI MAHOTSAV ||**  
Kala | Sanskriti | Sabhyata | Itihasa

**Neera Misra**, Chairperson, Trustees, Advisors, Members &  
**Prof. Shashibala**, President International Center for Cultural Studies

Request your gracious presence at  
the Special Program  
**"Indraprastha Talks: On our Shared Heritage Legacies"**

Inauguration by  
Chief Guest  
**Manniye Shri Om Birla**  
Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Govt. of India

Valedictory Chief Guest  
**Manniye Shri V. Muraleedharan**  
Hon. Minister of State, MEA, Govt. of India

Thursday, **27 July 2023**, from **8:50 AM**  
Valedictory - 1:00 PM followed by lunch

**Venue**  
C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre,  
40 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi

**\*Please be seated by 8:40 AM**  
**\*Program Overleaf**

**RSVP**  
Smt. Neeta Aneja: 9810518866  
Yashvi Singh: 8755053226  
Kritika Joshi: 7579064661  
Jyoti Kumar: 9810960602  
Anand Kumar: 7065940663

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**Program**  
**Thursday, 27 July 2023**

8:45 am – Arrival of Dignitaries, Guests  
8:55 am – Arrival of Chief Guest  
9:00 am – Inaugural Session  
Chief Guest: **Manniye Shri Om Birla**,  
Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Govt. of India

9:30 am – Tea Break

10:00 am – **Ambassadors Talk :**  
**ON SHARED HERITAGE, LEGACIES, VALUES, HISTORY, CULTURE & TRADITIONS**  
**Keynote Address :** Smt. Manika Jain, Additional Secretary (DE), MEA, GOI  
**Moderated by :** Dr. Swapan Dasgupta, (Eminent Columnist)  
Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha  
**Shri Ranjeet Chaturvedi**, Industrialist and Social Worker,  
Project Administrator Society

1:00 pm – Valedictory Session  
Chief Guest : **Manniye Shri V. Muraleedharan**,  
Hon. Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs

1:30 pm – Lunch

**Invited Countries**  
Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, Iran,  
Afghanistan, Indonesia, Cambodia,  
Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Philippines,  
Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka,  
Bangladesh, Malaysia, Suriname,  
Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad Tobago,  
Reunion Island, Guyana









# International Seminar Conservation of Diversity: Lithuanian Experience And Cultural Music Performance

By  
Cultural Group of Lithuania, KULGRINDA

**G20** 2023 INDIA  
**संस्कार भारती**  
कला एवं साहित्य की अखिल भारतीय संस्था

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CULTURAL STUDIES

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR on  
'CONSERVATION OF DIVERSITY :  
LITHUANIAN EXPERIENCE'  
&  
**CULTURAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE**  
presented by  
Cultural Group of 'Lithuania'  
**KULGRINDA**

'विविधता का संरक्षण :  
लिथुआनिया का अनुभव'  
विषय पर आयोजित अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी तथा  
'लिथुआनिया' की सांस्कृतिक मंडली  
**KULGRINDA**  
द्वारा प्रस्तुत  
सांस्कृतिक संगीत समारोह

बुधवार, 15 फरवरी, 2023 • इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र, नई दिल्ली

इंदिरा गांधी  
राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र

संस्कार भारती  
दिल्ली प्रांत

वनवासी कल्याण आश्रम

On February 15th, an international seminar and a captivating music performance took place in New Delhi. The event was organized by the International Centre for Cultural Studies in collaboration with Sanskar Bharati and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram. The event was held at the IGNC (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts). The focus of the seminar was the Working Group "Diversity, Inclusion and Mutual Respect" of C20.

## Highlights

- One of the highlights of the event was a mesmerizing music performance presented by the Lithuanian group named "KULGRINDA." This musical group had already visited several other cities in India, including Bengaluru, Indore, Varanasi, and Agra before their performance in Delhi.



- The music performance by KULGRINDA was a delightful experience for the audience, considering their journey across various cities in India. The event, combining an international seminar with the enchanting musical performance, aimed to celebrate cultural diversity, promote mutual respect, and foster a sense of inclusion. The collaboration between different organizations and the participation of an international music group added a rich and vibrant touch to the event, contributing to a memorable and enriching experience for all attendees.
- During the seminar, Prof. (Dr.) Shashi Bala, the International Coordinator of the Working Group and a Member of the International Advisory Committee, extended a warm welcome to the participants. Throughout the seminar, she highlighted numerous linguistic and cultural parallels between India and Lithuania, underscoring the need for more comprehensive research into their cultural connections.



- Mr. Zymantas Mozuraitis, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Lithuania in India, along with Dr. Ignas Sadauskas, a Lithuanian Guru and singer, flutist Chetan Joshi, and members of Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram and Sanskar Bharati actively participated in the discussions.
- The musical performance by the Lithuanian group illuminated their profound commitment to preserving their diverse musical heritage. Their music, deeply rooted in tradition, has been handed down across generations through stories known as "daina."
- Lithuanian music is layered with ethical, psychological, and metaphysical dimensions. A prominent singer in the group represents the voice of the ancestors, which takes precedence. However, this voice is not dominant compared to the accompanying singers. This signifies their approach of respectful inclusion rather than suppression of diverse voices. The sacred music embodies the core principles of mutual respect and inclusivity, devoid of ego or desire.



approach of respectful inclusion rather than suppression of diverse voices. The sacred music embodies the core principles of mutual respect and inclusivity, devoid of ego or desire.

- For Lithuanians, music is a means of understanding those who sing differently. The synchronization of various singing styles is a distinctive characteristic. This knowledge is passed down from their ancestors who believed in embracing diversity. They acknowledge that our planet has endowed us with everything to shape us into what we are today, a tradition akin to India's "shruti Parampara."



### Conclusion

- The message conveyed by the conference and the music performance was that Indo-European culture embraces diversity in myriad forms, without diminishing any other tradition. It cherishes differences and preserves them through various cultural avenues. The Lithuanian tradition of singing dates back a millennium, representing unity, respect for others, and diverse styles.
- Despite not sharing political boundaries, Lithuania and India exhibit several similarities that enrich their respective cultures. Their shared faith in the divine is one such similarity. They often say, "God has given teeth; it will give food."
- The music performance, characterized by the inclusion of various voices, facilitated mutual understanding through the art form itself. The group "Kulgrinda" from Lithuania presented a vibrant performance that exemplified their rich culture. They concluded the evening by singing Sanskrit shlokas and "Vande Mataram," accompanied by Lithuanian musical instruments, spreading a message of unity and harmony worldwide.



## Walking Towards Inclusion..... A Rally



On the sidelines of the G20 summit, the International Centre for Cultural Studies, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and Karma Foundation, all part of the working committee on 'diversity, inclusion, mutual respect' of Civil 20 India 2023, organized a march towards inclusion. This event, titled "Walking towards Inclusion," saw participation from individuals of various backgrounds who marched together with slogans promoting universal brotherhood and sisterhood. The objective was to embody the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' the theme of India's G20 presidency.

Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi ji, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Govt. of India, graced the event as the Chief Guest. She was received by distinguished individuals including Prof. Shashi Bala, Bharat Gupta, Saurabh Goyal, Jyoti Shah Misra, Payal Koul, and Dhvani Jain.

Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi ji emphasized the inclusive traditions of India and stressed focusing on abilities rather than disabilities. She cited the example of Ashtavakra, who translated the shlokas of the Gita despite his disabilities. She encouraged the youth to embrace principles, values, and ethics in life and recited a poignant poem by Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore.

Prof. Shashi Bala, an International Advisory Committee Member of C20 and Dean Indology at BVB, provided insights into G20, C20, and the significance of India's G20 presidency in challenging times. She underscored that diversity is a natural law and philosophy of life, and without mutual respect, inclusion loses its essence. She shared her meaningful experience from the inception conference of C20 in Nagpur and expressed her confidence in the ability of the Indian way of life to contribute to building an inclusive world.

Ms. Nidhi Goyal, a Member of the C20 Steering Committee, shared her inspirational journey with the audience. She recounted how she met her mentor at 15 and, guided by his wisdom, developed a



broader vision for life despite losing her sight. She highlighted that Indian society has historically embraced diversity and called for building upon this inclusive legacy.



The rally commenced with the flag-off ceremony by the Minister, featuring a unique flag adorned with shlokas that highlighted India's spiritual strength. The event culminated with the unveiling of a wall of noble thoughts, where members of the civil society pledged their support to the cause by adding their signatures to the wall.

Following the rally, an enlightening discussion was held among industry leaders, who shared their extensive experiences in the field of diversity and inclusion.

Mr. Saurabh Goel, Executive President of Havells India Ltd, chaired the session and contextualized the discussion from a corporate standpoint. He emphasized the benefits of an inclusive workplace, including better representation of women in leadership roles, which enhances profitability. He highlighted how the Barbie industry transformed by redesigning dolls to represent diverse groups more realistically.

Shri Bharat Gupta, CEO of Jagran New Media, discussed the media industry's situation and outlined initiatives taken by Jagran New Media group in the domain of diversity, equity, and inclusion. He underscored the challenges posed by geography, language, gender, education, and information access, especially when India has a demographic advantage with over 65% of the population under 35. He stressed the significance of literacy, advocacy, and policy reforms.



Smt. Jyoti Shah Mishra, Vice Chairperson of the Uttarakhand State Commission for Women, highlighted the conditions in remote Uttarakhand areas, particularly the struggles of women farmers. She shared initiatives aimed at economically empowering women inmates in prisons for a dignified life. She emphasized that education can be transformative and plans to establish counseling centers in small Uttarakhand towns.

Ms. Payal Koul, Independent Director of Hinduja Technology Ltd, spotlighted diverse dimensions of diversity such as religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical/mental abilities, and more. She mentioned initiatives like remote work post-COVID, flexible working hours, policies for returning women employees, and changing hiring policies. She believed that corporates should expand to smaller towns and make DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) reporting mandatory for improvement.

During the discussion, all panelists concurred on the value of inclusion, not only for individuals but also for the industry and the nation.

The event concluded with Dhvani Jain, Founder of Karma Foundation, extending a Vote of Thanks. She highlighted that under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, G20 had been democratized, and India's G20 presidency had become a 'Jan Bhaagidari' movement. She expressed confidence that civil society members could collaboratively build an inclusive society rooted in mutual respect, ensuring India's G20 presidency was inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented. She called on citizens to 'Be The Light' of hope, change, and action, symbolized by the Civil20India2023 logo.









# Himachal

[Click here for Report](#)

# Delhi

[Click here for Report](#)

# Jammu

[Click here for Report](#)

The Working Group organised samajshala in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Delhi too. Click above for the detailed reports.



# Some glimpses of Samajshala event in Madhya Pradesh India

 **M.P. Jan Abhiyan Parishad**  
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#G20Summit के अंतर्गत #C20 समाजशाला,  
@MP\_JanAbhiyan एवं @vkendra के संयुक्त तत्वावधान  
मे मान.उपा. @vibhashupadhyay, @jitendrajamdar  
म.नि. @NaiduRajagopal एवं का. नि.  
@Dr\_DKPandey की उपस्थिति मे आयोजित, जिसमें  
@vkvk77 दीदी का मार्गदर्शन प्राप्त हुआ।  
@CMMadhyaPradesh



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#G20Summit के अंतर्गत #C20 समाजशाला का आयोजन  
@MP\_JanAbhiyan एवं @vkendra के संयुक्त तत्वावधान मे  
#भोपाल मे सम्पन्न हुआ जिसमें @vkvk77 दीदी का मार्गदर्शन  
प्राप्त हुआ।  
@PMOIndia @ChouhanShivraj






# Special Samajshalas

These samajshalas were designed to cater to specific segments of the population, such as youth, families, women, and the general public. The primary purposes of these samajshalas were to engage and involve a broader range of people and to gather recommendations and insights from individuals at the grassroots level.

These samajshalas played an important role in fostering community engagement, providing a platform for various activities and discussions tailored to the needs and interests of different groups within the population. By targeting specific demographics like youth, families, and women, the working group attempted to address specific challenges and opportunities.

For example, a youth-focused samajshala offered educational and recreational programs to empower young individuals, while a family-oriented samajshala provided resources and workshops to strengthen family bonds and well-being. Similarly, a women's samajshala focused on women's empowerment, skill development, and addressed gender-related issues.

This approach contributed to a more inclusive and participatory approach towards suggesting recommendations and creating awareness on Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect.

## Youth

A total of 12 programs were organized across Assam, and one program was held in Punjab. These programs aimed to facilitate discussions and knowledge sharing on topics relevant to the theme. These programs featured domain experts who discussed various topics related to the theme "DIMR." In these programs, a diverse range of institutes, totalling 196, participated. These institutes could include educational institutions such as schools, colleges, universities, research institutions and more. The participation of a variety of institutes suggests a widespread interest in the theme and a desire to engage in meaningful discussions and collaborations.

There were 1,803 participants in these programs. These participants were individuals from the institutes involved, including researchers, scholars, policymakers, teachers, academicians besides youth and others with an interest in the theme "DIMR." The high number of participants indicates a significant level of engagement and interest in the discussions and knowledge-sharing opportunities provided by these programs. This series of events were inaugurated at Guwahati. A concise report is given below.



## Samajshalas For The Youth Of Assam Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect

**VIVEKANANDA KENDRA INSTITUTE OF CULTURE**  
and  
**VIVEKANANDA KENDRA KANYAKUMARI, ASSAM PRANT**  
BRANCH : KAMRUP (GUWAHATI)  
**C20 Samaj Shala for the Youth of Assam**  
**DIVERSITY INCLUSION MUTUAL RESPECT**

*Guest of Honour*  
**Sri Nakul Chandra Deori**  
Youth Officer, National Service Scheme, NER  
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India

*Chief Guest*  
**Prof. Ramesh Ch. Deka**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,  
Cotton University, Guwahati, Assam, India

*Hon'ble Speaker*  
**Dr. Vikas Tripathi**  
Assistant Professor  
Dept. of Political Science  
Gauhati University, Guwahati, India

**Date : Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023    Time : 10:00 am (Registration), 11:00 am (Programme)**  
**Venue : Williamson Magor Auditorium, Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati, Assam, India**

### Purpose of the Event

The outreach program was a proactive effort to engage the youth and promote youth leadership within the C20 working group of DIMR. The initiative was to focus on empowering young individuals to take an active role in discussions and actions related to diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect. By organizing events under the youth ambassador initiative, the C20 working group aims to provide a platform for young leaders to contribute their perspectives, ideas, and solutions to address important global issues.

This type of initiative not only encourages the participation of younger generations but also recognizes their potential to bring fresh insights and innovative approaches towards global concerns. By involving youth in meaningful discussions and activities, the initiative is likely fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among them, motivating them to become agents of positive change within their communities and on a broader scale. This is an important step toward building a more inclusive and equitable society through mutual respect for the future.



## Speakers

- 1.Hon'ble Chief Guest- Prof Ramesh Chandra Deka, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Cotton University, Guwahati, India.
- 2.Guest of Honour - Shri Nakul Chandra Deori, Youth Officer National Service Scheme (NSS), Northeastern Region, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Govt of India.
- 3.Hon'ble speaker - Dr Vikas Tripathi, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati, India.
- 4.Dr Parimal Bhattacharya - Director, Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture.
- 5.Sri Kamalakant Baliarsingh - Yuva Pramukh, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari, Assam Prant.

**Number of participants : 220**

## Highlights

The event began with a traditional Sanskrit chant performed by Youth Ambassadors, setting a reverent and ceremonial tone for the proceedings.

ॐ सह नावतु । सह नौ भुनक्तु ।  
सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।  
तेजस्वि नावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै ।  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥


**meaning.....**

Aum! May He protect us both together; may He nourish us both together;  
May we work conjointly with great energy,  
May our study be vigorous and effective;  
May we not mutually dispute (or may we not hate any).  
Aum! Let there be peace in me!  
Let there be peace in my environment!  
Let there be peace in the forces that act on me!



This choice of commencement likely aimed to connect the event with cultural and spiritual elements, emphasizing the importance of heritage and tradition in the context of diversity, inclusion, mutual respect. The chant may have also served as a unifying and calming element, helping participants focus their attention on the purpose and themes of the event.




 Dr Parimal Chandra Bhattacharjee, the Director of Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture as the first speaker welcomed the gathering. He highlighted the significance of youth in society and underscored their crucial role in shaping the future of a nation. He emphasized that the youth are essential contributors to the growth and progress of any country.

Furthermore Dr. Bhattacharjee mentioned the approach of involving the public in events, particularly referring to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who chairs the G20. He expressed that these events should be reflective of the principles of "Janabhagidari", a term in Indian terminology that translates to "people's participation."

He went on to explain that the event was organized as part of the ongoing Youth Ambassador Programme initiated by DIMR. This program was designed with the philosophy of being "By the Youth, For the Youth, and Of the Youth." This approach underscores the importance of youth involvement in designing, executing, and benefiting from such initiatives, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment among the young generation.

Dr Parimal Chandra Bhattacharjee's opening remarks highlighted the event's dedication to youth participation and emphasized the role of young individuals in shaping the direction of their society and nation.



 The Hon'ble Chief Guest, Prof. Ramesh Chandra Deka, who is the Vice Chancellor of Cotton University, Guwahati, India, delivered a profound speech at the event. He eloquently highlighted the vital role that youth play in restoring diversity and inclusion not only in society but also on campuses.

Prof. Deka emphasized that campuses worldwide are characterized by a rich diversity of students representing various communities, nationalities, genders, attitudes, and choices. He underlined the necessity of fostering inclusion to preserve this diversity. He noted that inclusion can only be achieved through the practice of mutual respect among individuals and groups.

Furthermore, Prof. Deka stressed the importance of establishing community studies departments in universities globally. These departments would focus on researching and documenting the traditional knowledge of diverse communities across the world, without any prejudice.

The Vice Chancellor expressed his concern about the growing stress levels and cases of mental health issues on university campuses. He proposed that India's way of life, encompassing yoga and its ancient spiritual heritage, could offer a solution to these challenges. He suggested that by embracing India's spiritual teachings, universities can lead the world towards a brighter future, which aligns with the C20 logo "You are the light."

Prof. Ramesh Chandra Deka's insightful speech highlighted the significance of youth in promoting diversity, inclusion, and well-being on campuses and in society as a whole. His emphasis on mutual respect, traditional knowledge and spirituality underscored the holistic approach needed for positive change.



Dr Vikas Tripathi, Faculty, Political Science Department, Gauhati University speaking on the theme in a Samajshala programme for the Youth at Guwahati organised by Vivekananda Kendra, Branch Kamrup.



Dr. Vikas Tripathi, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Gauhati University, Guwahati, India, lauded the youth as a unifying and cohesive force within society. By describing the youth as a "binding force," Dr. Tripathi likely emphasized how young people have the potential to bridge divides and bring together diverse groups and perspectives. This acknowledgment highlights the important role that young individuals play in fostering unity, understanding, and cooperation among different segments of society. It underscores their capacity to overcome barriers and contribute positively to the advancement of a more inclusive and harmonious community. Dr. Tripathi quoted Swami Vivekananda world leader who is considered as the ultimate prophet of the youth

"Come, be Men!.... And you, what are you? ....Talking twaddle all your lives, vain talkers, what are you? Come, see these people, and then go and hide your face in shame. A race of dotards, you lose your caste if you come out ! Sitting down these hundreds of years with an ever-increasing load of crystalized superstition on your heads, for hundreds of years spending all your energy upon discussing the touch ableness or untouchableness of this food or that, with all humanity crushed out of you by the continuous social tyranny of ages-what are you? And what are you doing now?....."

Promenading the sea-shores with books in your hands-repeating undigested stray bits of European brainwork, and the whole soul bent upon getting thirty-rupee clerkship, or at best becoming a lawyer-the height of young India's ambition-and every student with a whole brood of hungry children crackling at his heels and asking for bread! Is there not water enough in the sea to drown you, books, gowns, university diplomas, and all?" said Dr. Tripathi is ideal youth.

He provided text outlines the significant role that youth can play in upholding diversity, inclusion, mutual respect in society. It emphasizes several key points:

### 1. Youth Participation and Awareness:

- Youth should have a voice and be heard in various contexts like campuses, societies, homes, and communities.
- Awareness of global affairs, government policies, social issues, community traditions, and threats should be instilled through education, seminars, study circles, etc.

### 2. Youth Leadership:

- Forming groups of youth leaders to organize seminars, symposiums, and other events.
- Acknowledging youth as valuable resources for peer learning and leadership development.



### **3. Empowerment and Engagement:**

- Empowering youth through exposure, opportunities, and community engagement beyond academics.
- Encouraging youth to participate in social work and community development initiatives by civil society organizations.

### **4. Volunteerism and Sewa:**

- Promoting volunteerism as a vital aspect of societal patterns and emotional well-being.
- Highlighting the concept of "One size doesn't fit all" and the importance of community-driven patterns.

### **5. Positive Youth Activism:**

- Encouraging youth to engage in community development and nationalism, transcending mere political activism.

### **6. Education and Cultural Understanding:**

- Educational institutions and parents should contribute to developing compassion and understanding for all communities across India.
- Avoiding judgments based on Western yardsticks and appreciating cultural diversity.

### **7. Media Literacy:**

- Developing the capacity to discern fake social media propaganda against Indian culture through discussions and education.

### **8. Learning from Saints and Philosophers:**

- Exploring the works of revered figures like Swami Vivekananda, Mahapurush Srimanta Shankaradeva, and Sri Aurobindo to understand the real components of Indian culture.

### **9. Learning from Saints and Philosophers:**

- Learning various Indian languages and adopting positive aspects from different traditions.

### **10. Learning from Saints and Philosophers:**

- Promoting spiritualism as a tool for mindful living, leading to an analytical mind free from prejudice.

### **11. Holistic Lifestyle:**

- Promoting spiritualism as a tool for mindful living, leading to an analytical mind free from prejudice.



## 12. Yoga and Stress Relief:

- Recognizing yoga as more than physical exercise – a holistic lifestyle for stress-free living.

## 13. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Principle:

- Embracing the principle of "One Earth, One Family" to promote unity and interconnectedness.

This comprehensive list underscores the multi-faceted ways in which youth can actively contribute to promoting diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect within society, aligning with the overarching theme of the C20 Summit Seminar.





## CIVIL 20\_SAMAJSHALAS (Youth)

Sl. No	Date	Location	Organisation/Institution	Institutions Participated	Total Participants
1	25th May	Guwahati, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	27	220
2	25th May	Lakhimpur, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	15	175
3	25th May	Bokakhat, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	13	136
4	26th May	Nagaon, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	10	112
5	27th May	Sibsagar, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	6	155
6	27th May	Tinsukia, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	35	189
7	28th May	Dhemaji, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	18	110
8	28th May	Mangaldoi, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	21	162
9	28th May	Bokajan, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	13	75
10	29th May	Hailakandi, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	10	135
11	30th May	Tezpur, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	11	170
12	4th June	Biswanath Chariali, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	8	54
13	27th March	Ludhiana, Punjab	Vivekananda Kendra	9	110







## WOMEN AND FAMILY

Four separate Samajshalas were specifically tailored for women and families in Assam. The summary are as follows:

1. **Number of Samajshalas for Women and Family: 4**
2. **Number of Women Organizations Participating: 17**
3. **Total Participants: 200**

### Themes and Concepts Addressed in the Samajshalas:

- **"Family as the Preserver of Diversity, Inclusion, and Mutual Respect"**: These Samajshalas aimed to emphasize the importance of the family unit in promoting values such as diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect. It appears that discussions revolved around how families can contribute to a more harmonious and respectful society by embracing differences and fostering an inclusive environment.

### Focus on Women's Issues and Empowerment:

- The Samajshalas also focused on addressing issues concerning women and empowering them. Discussions on gender, women's rights and duties, access to education and healthcare, economic empowerment and other relevant topics.

Thus these Samajshalas provided a platform for women organizations and participants to engage in meaningful discussions about family values, Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect and women's empowerment. The participation of multiple women organizations and individuals reflects a concerted effort to address important societal issues and promote positive change.



## CIVIL 20\_SAMAJSHALAS (Women)

Sl. No	Date	Location	Organisation/Institution	Total Organisations Participated	Total Participants
1	4th May	Guwahati, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	5	55
2	6th May	Golaghat, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	6	61
3	7th May	Dibrugarh, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	3	48
4	8th May	Tinsukia, Assam	Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture	3	36





## SAMAJSHALAS ACROSS INDIA

These Samajshalas encompassed a diverse range of participants, including civil society organizations, individuals, policymakers, activists, community organizations, members of the media and people from various walks of life.

**Number of Samajshalas Held:** 30

**Participants:** Civil society organizations, individuals, policymakers, activists, community organizations, members of the media, and people from all walks of life



Faculty from Adarsh College of Arts & Commerce, Badlapur, Maharashtra & Karyakartas from Vivekananda Kendra, Branch Badlapur Branch

### Objective of the Samajshalas:

- Discussing DIMR
- Sharing and spreading the concept of the theme to more responsible citizens of the country
- Ensuring continuity of the work related to the theme

### Participation and Collaboration:

- The Samajshalas involved a wide array of participants, reflecting the inclusivity of the initiative.
- Civil society organizations played a significant role, with 929 of them participating in the Samajshalas
- Total Participants from Various Sectors: 4776



## Duration:

- The Samajshalas took place from February to May 2023

This comprehensive approach highlights the effort to engage a broad spectrum of society in discussions related to the theme "DIMR." By involving civil society organizations, individuals from different backgrounds, policymakers, activists, community representatives, media members and more, the initiative aimed to ensure widespread understanding and awareness of the theme. The significant number of participating civil society organizations and individuals further underscores the commitment to promoting responsible citizenship and widespread involvement.

## CIVIL 20\_GENERAL SAMAJSHALAS

SI No	Date	Location	Organisation /Institution	Total Organisations Participated	Total Participants
1	11th Feb	Somnath, Gujarat	VRMVK	45	350
2	8th March	Varkala, Kerala	VRMVK	29	112
3	11th March	Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh	VRMVK	33	265
4	11th March	Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh	VRMVK	24	46
5	18th March	Dibrugarh, Assam	VRMVK	57	231
6	18th March	Kolkata, West Bengal	VRMVK	17	80
7	25th March	Karnavati, Gujarat	VRMVK	18	130
8	25th March	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	VRMVK	7	53
9	26th March	Ludhiana, Punjab	VRMVK	11	51
10	26th March	Silchar, Assam	VRMVK	20	67
11	1st April	Patna, Bihar	VRMVK	21	58
12	1st April	Panipat, Haryana	VRMVK	9	57
13	1st April	Delhi	VRMVK	29	184
14	8th April	Bhuaneshwar, Orisha	VRMVK	37	86
15	8th April	Bhilwada, Rajasthan	VRMVK	15	136
16	15th April	Pimplad, Maharashtra	VRMVK	62	406
17	15th April	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	VRMVK	25	215
18	3rd March	Central University Of Jharkhand, Ranchi, Jharkhand	AICYAM	47	189
19	27th March	Pattikalyana, Panipat, Haryana	VRMVK	48	240
20	28th March	Sonipat, Haryana	VRMVK	31	357
21	19th April	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	VRMVK	57	112



22	1st April	Central Tribal University, of AP (CTUAP), Vizianagaram	VRMVK	54	135
23	14th May	Brahmapur, Odisha	AICYAM	16	94
24	18th April	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	VRMVK	24	50
25	24th May	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	VRMVK	59	250
26	27th April	Delhi	VRMVK	66	212
27	16th May	Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir	VRMVK	11	110
28	15th Feb	New Delhi	ICCS, Sanskar Bharati, Vana vasi Kalyan Ashram, IGNCA	15	150 (7 Foreign Delegates)
29	13th May	Delhi	ICCS, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Karma Foundation	42	350
30	27th July	India International Centre, New Delhi	ICCS & Draupadi Dream Trust	15	128 (10 Foreign Delegates)

**Note:**

VRMVK-Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra  
 VKAICYAM-Vivekananda Kendra Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga and Management

**Some Glimpses**



Samajshala Programme at Bokajan College, Karbi Anglong organised by Vivekananda Kendra Rural Development Project in collaboration with VKIC



Samajshala Programme at Srikishan Sharda College, Hailikandi, Assam organised by Vivekananda Kendra, Branch Hailakandi, Silchar, Assam India



C20 G20 Awareness Programme for the cadets of the 19 Jharkhand BN NCC organised by Vivekananda Kendra Academy of Indian Culture, Yoga and Management and the Central University, Jharkhand



Vivekananda Kendra, Punjab Prant in association with Ludhiana Management Association organises Samajshala amongst aspiring managers





Vivekananda Kendra, Branch Nagoan, Morigaon, Hojai and West Karbi Anglong organises DIMR for the Youth in collaboration with the IQAC & NSS wing of Nagaon College in Nagoan, Assam India



Shri A Balakrishnan Ji, President, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari interacting with a select group of Youth on the DIMR in Panipat, Haryana, India



Inauguration of Samajshala programme on 'Youth for DIMR' by the Principal, Sivsagar Girls College organised by the college in collaboration with Vivekananda Kendra, Branch Sivsagar, Assam India



Youth for DIMR, Samajshala organised by Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture in collaboration with Tezpur University in the University



Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture and Vivekananda Kendra Branch Tinsukia organises 'Interaction with Civil Societies' at Tinsukia



## For Children



The working group organized painting competitions for children across 20 schools in Northeast India. It was an initiative to promote the theme of "Diversity Inclusion Mutual Respect" (DIMR) and celebrate the value of diversity in the world. This type of activity can be instrumental in fostering understanding, tolerance, and appreciation among young minds. Below is a summary of the initiative:

**Event:** Painting Competitions

**Participants:** Children from 20 schools across Northeast India

**Theme:** Diversity Inclusion Mutual Respect (DIMR)

**Objective:** Introduce children to the DIMR theme and encourage an understanding and celebration of diversity

The painting competitions centred around the DIMR theme, the initiative provides an artistic platform for them to express their perspectives on diversity, inclusion, and

mutual respect. Through their creative expressions, children can communicate their thoughts and feelings about these important values, helping them to internalize the significance of embracing differences and treating others with respect.

This kind of activity can contribute to the following:

- **Awareness:** Children become aware of the importance of diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect in society.
- **Creativity:** Painting allows children to explore their creativity and imagination while addressing meaningful concepts.
- **Education:** The activity can serve as an educational tool, teaching children about different cultures, backgrounds, and the importance of treating others kindly.
- **Community Engagement:** Involving multiple schools fosters a sense of community and shared values.
- **Empathy:** Expressing themselves through art can encourage children to develop empathy and a better understanding of others.

The painting competitions served as a creative and engaging way to introduce children to the DIMR theme and instil in them the values of Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual respect from a young age.



## Janabhagidari Events

Sl. No	Date	Location	Organisation/ Institution	Type of Events	Total Participants
1	3rd May	Kajalgaon, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	112
2	20th May	Borgolai, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	150
3	25th May	Borjelenga, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	285
4	25th May	Majuli, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	52
5	25th May	Golaghat, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	75
6	26th May	Doyang, Nagaland	VKSPV	Painting competition	75
7	27th May	Tinsukia, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	161
8	27th May	Sissiborgaon, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	186
9	27th May	Badarpur, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	115
10	27th May	Bokakhat, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	37
11	29th May	Ramnagar, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	182
12	29th May	Sibsagar, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	146
13	29th May	Khatkhati, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	195
14	29th May	Tumprong, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	58
15	30th May	Dibrugarh, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	72
16	30th May	Nalbari, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	172
17	31st May	Mangaldoi, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	112
18	31st May	Tezpur, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	63
19	31st May	Sadia, Assam	VKSPV	Painting competition	128
20	5th June	Mangaldoi, Assam	VKSPV	Tree Plantation	50
21	21st April	Sibsagar, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	166
22	24th April	Tumprong, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	197
23	28th April	Bali Gaon, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	45
24	29th April	Amguri, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	51



25	26th April	Kathar Gaon, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	37
26	22nd April	Demow, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	39
27	27th April	Panbari, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	75
28	2nd May	Tezpur, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	85
29	5th May	Diphu, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	92
30	11th May	Bokajan, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	78
31	2nd May	Khatkhati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	156
32	5th May	Hojai, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	98
33	3rd May	Parowa, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	47
34	15th May	Jagiroad, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	58
35	29th April	Narangi, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	110
36	22nd April	Joysagar, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	45
37	20th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	129
38	13th May	Dokmoka, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	104
39	12th May	Chaparmukh, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	85
40	25th April	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	92
41	17th April	Tinsukia, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	145
42	7th May	Vortok, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	58
43	9th May	Dibrugarh, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	29



44	6th May	Mazgaon, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	41
45	23rd April	Amlapatty, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	115
46	25th April	Gaurisagar, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	85
47	16th May	Sadiya, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	98
48	21st May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	217
49	4th May	Napam, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	45
50	8th May	Digboi, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	45
51	20th May	Cachar, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	89
52	13th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	150
53	8th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	112
54	4th May	Jhilmil, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	28
55	15th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	114
56	18th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	168
57	10th May	Jengraimukh, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	144
58	7th May	Bokakhat, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	112
59	6th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	125
60	4th may	Suklai, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	167
61	3rd May	Baksa, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	114
62	21st May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	102





63	11th May	Kajalgaon, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	98
64	8th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	103
65	6th May	Nalbari, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	132
66	25th April	Sonitpur, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	66
67	21st April	Chirang, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	85
68	5th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	112
69	18th May	Jorhat, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	141
70	4th May	Dhemaji, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	106
71	29th April	Tingrai, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	126
72	15th May	Mazgaon, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	85
73	2nd May	Sissborgaon, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	112
74	20th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	145
75	4th May	Golaghat, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	72
76	7th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	97
77	13th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	87
78	20th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	155
79	17th May	Bargolai, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	112
80	14th May	Ramnagar, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	141
81	19th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	115



82	13th May	NC hills, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	123
83	7th May	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	157
84	6th May	Majuli, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	85
85	24th April	Margherita, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	61
86	22nd April	Guwahati, Assam	VKIC	Youth Leadership Programme	42
87	26th July	Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu	VKV	Painting competition	59
88	27th July	Jairampur, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	87
89	27th July	Nirjuli, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	39
90	28th July	Balijan, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	53
91	28th July	Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	29
92	28th July	Amliang, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	67
93	28th July	Roing, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	79
94	28th July	Shergaon, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	27
95	29th July	Kallubalu, Karnataka	VKV	Painting competition	60
96	29th July	Tezu, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	43
97	29th July	Dollungmukh, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	55
98	31th July	Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	129
99	31th July	Sunpura, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	54



100	31th July	Banderdewa, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	114
101	1st August	Niausa, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	58
102	2nd August	Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar	VKV	Painting competition	93
103	3rd August	Jirdin, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	61
104	3rd August	Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	49
105	3rd August	Bana, Arunachal Pradesh	VKV	Painting competition	55

**Note:**

VKSPV - Vivekananda Kendra Shiksha Prasar Vibhag

VKV - Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya

VKIC - Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture





## Celebrating Diversity Through Tree Plantations



The working group took initiatives such as tree plantations. The purpose was to reflect a holistic approach to promoting diversity and environmental awareness. The focus extends beyond human diversity and encompasses the entire ecosystem, including plants, animals, and the environment. This initiative not only contributes to the enhancement of the natural world but also raises awareness about climate change and the individual responsibility that each person holds towards the planet.

### Tree Plantations and Ecosystem Diversity:

- Tree plantations contribute to reforestation and habitat restoration, supporting a diverse range of plant and animal species.
- By recognizing the importance of plants, animals, and ecosystems, the initiative emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living beings.

### Awareness about Climate Change:

- The event serves as a platform to educate participants about the impacts of climate change and the need for sustainable actions.
- It encourages people to understand how their actions affect the environment and motivates them to take positive steps towards mitigation.

### Respecting the Earth and Countering Consumerism:

- The principle of revering the Earth and valuing its resources aligns with sustainable practices and counters over-consumption.
- Emphasizing a way of life that respects and sustains the environment contributes to long-term ecological health.

### Cultural and Spiritual Perspectives:

- The reverence for nature and Earth is deeply embedded in cultures worldwide, including Indian culture that regards the Earth as a mother.
- This cultural perspective underscores the spiritual connection between humanity and the natural world.

The working group through these initiatives not only addressed immediate environmental concerns but also promoted a broader ethos of responsibility, sustainability, and interconnectedness. Such initiatives inspire individuals and communities to align their actions with the well-being of the planet and future generations.







## Youth Ambassador Programme

### Background:

The C20 India Ambassador Program is a platform for engaging the youth of India who are enthusiastic about serving their communities and participating in volunteer activities. The program seems to aim at empowering young individuals to take up leadership roles by organizing C20 India activities in their respective campuses, local areas, and communities. By doing so, they not only contribute to the betterment of their surroundings but also gain valuable experience in event planning, leadership, and community service.

The program's emphasis on selfless service, volunteerism, and community engagement aligns with the broader goal of fostering a sense of responsibility and active citizenship among young people. Through their participation in various activities, C20 Ambassadors could make a positive impact and bring about meaningful change in their communities.

Furthermore, the certificates awarded for participation acknowledge the efforts of these young ambassadors and can serve as a testament to their commitment to service and leadership. The program's structure of supporting ambassadors based on their interests suggests a personalized approach, allowing individuals to contribute in ways that resonate with them personally.

Overall, the C20 India Ambassador Program is a promising initiative that not only encourages youth involvement but also helps in building a network of like-minded individuals dedicated to community service and positive change.

### Objectives:

The main objectives of the Youth Ambassador Programme were as follows:

- **Youth Empowerment:** The program provides young people with opportunities to develop leadership skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. It encourages them to take ownership of projects and initiatives that address societal challenges.
- **Community Engagement:** Youth Ambassadors engage in community service, volunteer work, and projects that contribute to the betterment of their communities. They are encouraged to identify local issues and work collaboratively to find solutions.
- **Global Awareness:** Many programs have an international focus, encouraging youth to engage with global issues such as climate change, poverty, human rights, and more. This helps in fostering a sense of global citizenship and understanding.



- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Youth Ambassadors often play a role in raising awareness about specific issues or causes. They may participate in campaigns, workshops, seminars, and other activities aimed at educating their peers and the wider community.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** These programs offer a platform for young people to connect with each other, share ideas, and collaborate on projects. This networking can lead to lasting friendships and partnerships that have a positive impact.
- **Skill Development:** Youth Ambassadors receive training and guidance that helps them enhance their communication, leadership, project management, and teamwork skills. These skills are valuable for both personal growth and future career opportunities.
- **Youth Representation:** The program provides young people with a voice and representation in decision-making processes, allowing them to contribute to policies and strategies that affect them.
- **Inspiration:** Youth Ambassadors often serve as role models for their peers, inspiring others to get involved in positive activities and make a difference in their communities.
- **Cultural Exchange:** In international programs, Youth Ambassadors from different countries can engage in cultural exchange, fostering mutual understanding and respect among diverse groups.

The Youth Ambassador Programme serves as a platform for young people to channel their energy, passion, and creativity towards creating positive change on both local and global levels. It empowers them to become active citizens who contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable world.

### Highlights:

Following were the stages of the Youth Ambassador Programme:

#### 1. Recruitment and Selection:

- Identification of potential candidates from the schools and colleges across India
- Application process included submitting resumes. Followed by competitions such as essay writing, wall magazine, poster making and quiz.
- The next stage involved group discussions and interviews.

- Selection of participants based on criteria such as leadership potential, commitment to community service, and alignment with the program's objectives.

#### 2. Orientation and Training:

- Orientation session was organized to introduce the selected participants to the program's goals, expectations, and guidelines.



- Training sessions on leadership skills, communication, teamwork, project management, cultural sensitivity, and other relevant topics were conducted.

### **3. Project Planning and Development:**

- Participants worked in groups to identify community needs, global issues, or areas of interest.
- Projects were identified and each group was allotted projects all over the country.
- Guidance and support from mentors or program coordinators to refine project ideas and create action plans was the next step.

### **4. Implementation:**

- Participants executed their projects or initiatives, working to achieve their goals and make a positive impact.
- Regular check-ins, meetings, and support from mentors to monitor progress, provide guidance, and address challenges.

### **5. Community Engagement and Outreach:**

- Participants engaged with schools and communities to raise awareness for DIMR.
- Workshops, seminars, events, and campaigns were organized and participation was encouraged.

### **6. Reflection and Learning:**

- Periodic reflection sessions where participants discuss their experiences,

challenges, successes, and lessons learned.

- Sharing of best practices, strategies, and insights among participants.

### **7. Evaluation and Assessment:**

- Assessment of the impact and effectiveness of participants' projects or initiatives.
- Feedback from mentors, peers, and beneficiaries.
- Identification of areas for improvement and growth.

### **8. Networking and Collaboration:**

- Opportunities for participants to connect with each other, mentors, experts, and other stakeholders.
- Collaboration on joint projects, workshops, or events.

### **9. Showcasing and Recognition:**

- Presentation of participants' projects or initiatives through exhibitions, conferences, reports, and media.
- Recognition of participants' efforts through certificates, awards, or public acknowledgment.

### **10. Showcasing and Recognition:**

- Discussions on how the impact of projects can be sustained beyond the program duration.
- Encouraging participants to continue their involvement in community service, advocacy, and leadership roles.



## 11. Closure and Graduation:

- Celebration event or ceremony to mark the successful completion of the program.
- Acknowledgment of participants' achievements and contributions.
- Participants become alumni of the program, staying connected and contributing to future activities.



3000 students from 80 institutions



54 Youth Ambassadors were selected



4486 youth were involved



66 events







## Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect: Global Seminar, Namsai

### Date

10th June -12th June 2023

### Venue

Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh, India

### Foreign Participation

34 participants from 24 countries, including a former Deputy Prime Minister (Thailand) and 1 Ambassador and 1 High Commissioner.

No of organizations  
participated (NGO/CSO)

**53**

**300**

Total  
Participants

### Inaugural Session

The final seminar of the working group on Diversity, Inclusion, and Mutual Respect opened with its inaugural session, featuring a welcome address by Dr. Joram Begi. Dr. Begi is the National Coordinator for Diversity, Inclusion, and Mutual Respect (DIMR) and also serves as the Chairman of the Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture.



During his welcome address, Dr. Begi highlighted the significance of the seminar and its theme. He mentioned that the voices and aspirations of the global population, often represented as "C20", play a crucial role in communicating the desires and needs of people to the leaders of the G20 nations. The G20 is a group of major advanced and emerging economies that come together to discuss global economic cooperation and policy making.



Dr. Begi, National Co-Ordinator, DIMR and Chairperson, VKIC emphasized the central aim of the seminar's theme, which is no one should be left behind.

The keynote address of the seminar was delivered by Shri S Gurumurthy, the Chairman of the Vivekananda International Foundation. Shri Gurumurthy emphasized the interconnected nature of diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect. He argued against the idea of "one size fits all" approach, highlighting that different societies and individuals have unique needs and characteristics that should be acknowledged and respected.

Drawing from India's own example, Shri Gurumurthy emphasized that the country is proof that diverse people can coexist peacefully. He pointed out that despite India's rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions, people from various backgrounds can come together and live harmoniously. He concluded his address by suggesting that a comprehensive global discussion on diversity should take place.

Following the keynote address, Shri Vijay Nambiar, Sherpa for C20 India 2023, spoke about the importance of empathy and camaraderie among individuals. He stressed that peaceful coexistence is achievable when there is mutual respect for one another's differences. Nambiar also highlighted that inclusion should aim to enrich and expand our understanding. He urged the audience to sensibly embrace diversity to enhance their lives. He also noted that many marginalized groups still face oppression, and it's everyone's responsibility to ensure their safety and inclusion.



Shri P D Sona, Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh and Chairman of G20 programs in the state, addressed the gathering. He underscored the significance of the seminar's theme in the context of Arunachal Pradesh, which is marked by its diverse tribes, cultures, dialects, and food habits. He referred to the state as a microcosm of India's macrocosmic diversity. Sona emphasized that the theme practically resonates in Arunachal Pradesh and encouraged mutual respect not only among humans but also towards all living beings on the planet.

The Chief Minister then took the stage, providing an overview of Arunachal Pradesh's diverse composition, with over 26 major tribes and 100 sub-tribes coexisting harmoniously. He attributed this harmony to the relentless efforts of community-based organizations working towards the state's betterment. The Chief Minister also highlighted India's commitment to being people-centric and inclusive, as well as its role in finding global solutions, exemplified during the pandemic. He emphasized the idea of the world as one big family, where helping others is equivalent to helping ourselves.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Chau Zingnu Namchoom, expressing gratitude to all the speakers and participants for their valuable contributions and insights during the seminar's opening session.

## First Plenary Session

### GENERAL DELIBERATION ON THE THEME OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION MUTUAL RESPECT

The session was moderated by Ambassador Vijay Nambiar, Sherpa, C20 India, 2023. There were six presenters who shared their perspectives on the theme:



#### **Padmashree Nivedita Bhide:**

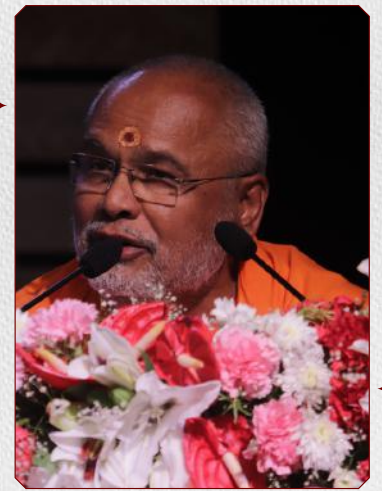
As the first speaker, Smt. Nivedita Bhide, Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra and a member of the Steering Committee of C20 India, discussed the concept of human progress as a spiral progress. She highlighted that both inner and outer development are crucial for holistic growth. Outer development encompasses connectivity and other material advancements, while inner development involves a spiritual understanding of the universe. Smt. Bhide emphasized that these two aspects need to grow in parallel, as stagnant growth in one aspect hinders overall progress. She also stressed that biodiversity is

interconnected with every being and that diversity, community, and tradition must be realized as aspects of oneness for true achievement.



### Swami Paramatmananda Saraswati:

The second speaker, Swami Paramatmananda Saraswati, Secretary General of Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha and Founder of Arsha Vidya Mandir, discussed biodiversity, inclusiveness, and mutual respect within the context of India's living biodiversity. He highlighted that Indian religion epitomizes inclusion and mutual respect for all entities. He mentioned that no entity exists in isolation, and acknowledging coexistence is essential. He pointed out that modern society has become more judgmental, with concepts like exclusivity and intolerance posing threats to diversity. These divisive forces must be halted to prevent marginalization, and spaces should be created where every voice is heard.



### Swami Mokshamritananda Chaitanya:



The third speaker, Swami Mokshamritananda Chaitanya, a representative of the Chair of Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, focused on motherhood as an expression of embracing differences. He asserted that true inclusiveness and mutual respect arise when individuals view others as extensions of themselves. He criticized religious conversions as being anti-secular and anti-human, hindering inclusion, tolerance, and mutual respect. Swami Mokshamritananda Chaitanya proposed placing motherhood as a central theme in all religions, which could remind humanity of unconditional love and bridge the gaps of discrimination, ultimately fostering inclusion and tolerance within diversity.

### Shri Korn Debbaransi:

The fourth speaker, Shri. Korn Debbaransi, former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and President of the Thai-India Friendship Association discussed the role of C20 as a people-to-people organization. He highlighted that achieving inclusion and mutual respect should not be the endpoint but rather a steppingstone. He proposed a chronological approach where harmonization, peace, and prosperity would follow inclusion and mutual respect, ultimately leading to progress in the goals of C20.







### **Professor Amarjiva Lochana:**

The fifth speaker, Professor Amarjiva Lochana, General Secretary of ICCFM (Indian Coordination Committee of Farmers Movements), spoke about the role of C20 during the COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasized that C20 serves a higher purpose beyond being a mere gathering. It serves as a platform to listen to and address the problems faced by the world.

### **Smt. Mariia Timashova:**

The sixth speaker, Smt. Mariia Timashova from ICCS (International Centre for Cultural Studies), Russia, discussed the transformative power of diversity and the importance of inclusion. She highlighted that unity and humanity hold the key to solving the world's problems. Timashova stressed that attentive listening is essential to identify this transformative power, and through inclusion, we can better understand each other and work toward solutions.



Overall, the first plenary session explored diverse perspectives on the themes of diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect, emphasizing the interconnectedness of these concepts and their relevance in addressing global challenges.

## **Second Plenary Session**

### **UNDERSTANDING INCLUSION AND MUTUAL RESPECT IN THE CONTEXT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED (DIVYAANGJA) AND GENDER ISSUES**

The moderator of the session was Shri Anup K Mahapatra, Vivekananda Kendra-Academy of Indian Culture, Yoga and Management, Bhubaneswar. Here's a summary of the insights shared by each speaker:





### **Shri Nisheeth Mehta:**

Shri. Nisheeth Mehta, founder and CEO of Microsign Products, discussed the potential of differently-abled individuals becoming assets rather than liabilities. He emphasized the importance of providing opportunities to them instead of being prejudiced. He suggested sensitizing society and raising awareness about differently-abled individuals, focusing on their abilities rather than treating them as fundamentally different.

### **Shri Gopishankar M:**

Shri. Gopishankar M, South zone representative of the National Council of Transgender Persons, highlighted the distinction between transgenders and intersex individuals. He noted that queer lives often involve trauma and suffering. Self-acceptance is a crucial step before seeking societal acceptance. He stressed that the Western concept of LGBTQIA+ doesn't encompass all indigenous sexual identities. Inclusion extends beyond empathy, aiming to accommodate and embrace every identity. Shri Gopishankar recommended the following for the C20 Nations.

- Establishment of the National SOGIESC Commission in every nation to regulate and review the issues related to SOGIESC.
- No G20 nations shall weaponize, homogenise, commercialise, exploit, and politicise the cause related to SOGIESC. For the same, we request to establish the International Centre for SOGIESC Studies, headquartered in India to protect and preserve the indigenous SOGIESC identities as well as to monitor, study, research, and regulate the issues related to SOGIESC communities.



### **Professor Satya Mahapatra:**

Professor Satya Mahapatra, Director of the Institute of Health Sciences in Bhubaneswar, emphasized that diversity is not a choice, particularly when dealing with differently-abled children. He critiqued labelling and suggested a need for comprehensive therapeutic care, incorporating modern technology to address their needs. He proposed that India should develop technology to bridge existing gaps.



### **Dr. Aparna Lalingkar:**

Dr. Aparna Lalingkar, SPPU Senate Member, discussed about the "rainbow economy" and the capitalist influence on LGBTQ agendas. She advocated for awareness against gender change at a young age due to potential complications.



### **Dr. Yuwalee Unpapron:**

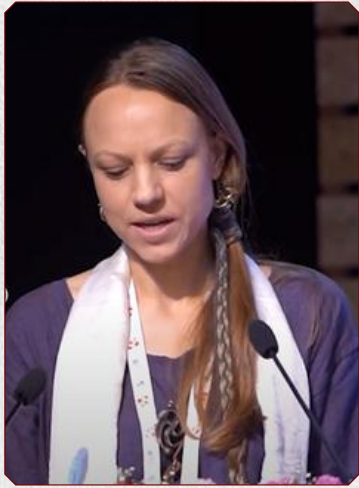
Dr. Yuwalee Unpapron highlighted the importance of education in breaking down barriers related to disability and gender issues.

### **Dr. Chirapat Prapandvidya:**

Dr. Chirapat Prapandvidya, a Padma Shri awardee, shared a philosophical perspective on temporality. He suggested that viewing everything as temporary could help mitigate issues and differences, including diversity.







**Smt. Gaile Vonagiene:**

Smt. Gaile Vonagiene, a Romuva High Priestess from Lithuania, discussed linguistic and cultural similarities between Lithuanians and Indians. She emphasized the significance of worshiping nature and concluded that human well-being depends on their faith.

These speakers collectively provided diverse perspectives on inclusion, diversity, and mutual respect, offering insights from various fields and experiences. The discussions highlighted the importance of acknowledging different identities and embracing them in a holistic manner.

### Third Plenary Session

## CULTURE AND FAITH OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Here is a summary of the speakers and their insights from the panel discussion based on the sub-theme:

**Moderator - Dr. Joram Begi:**

Dr. Joram Begi, the National Coordinator of WG DIMR and Chairman VKIC, introduced the sub-theme's relevance, particularly in the context of Arunachal Pradesh. He highlighted how the state has preserved its culture and faith, setting an example for the rest of the country. He emphasized the need to value culture and language while advocating for both traditional and modern education.







**Prof. Bhagat Oinam:**

Prof. Bhagat Oinam, Director of JNIAS, JNU, discussed the mantra of sustainability and development. He stressed that while modernity, science, and technology are important, they come at a cost, often involving environmental exploitation. He highlighted the necessity of acknowledging the indirect rights of the environment and the importance of coexistence.

**Shri Jayanta Kr Sarma:**

Shri Jayanta Kr Sarma, Independent Researcher, emphasized learning from the ecosystem people of the northeast and adopting their ways of life, culture, and thinking. He proposed that regenerative development should be based on "Collectivism, Mutualism, Minimalism, and Altruism (CMMA)." He discussed how traditional knowledge systems, such as irrigation methods and housing practices, hold technical solutions for sustainable living.



**Shri Pai Dawe:**

Shri Pai Dawe, General Secretary of Donyi Polo Cultural Charitable Trust (DPCCT), highlighted that Indigenous Faith and Cultural Philosophy are based on diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect. He emphasized that modernization should not mean abandoning traditional systems but rather revitalizing them with new vigor. He stressed the relevance of Indigenous faith and culture and advocated for the ban of conversions in the name of modernization.



### **Dr. Phirmi Bodo:**

Dr. Phirmi Bodo, a Professor at JNU, discussed how western narratives have stigmatized indigenous people as exotic and barbaric. She called for in-depth research to unveil the history of indigenous communities and raise awareness among the younger generation to preserve their culture and faith.



### **Shri Kripashankar Bhagat:**

Shri Kripashankar Bhagat highlighted the destruction of tribal society, beliefs, and practices due to development, endangering both tribal and wider human existence.

### **Dr. Tomoaki Itayama:**

Dr. Tomoaki Itayama, a Professor at Nagasaki University, shared his insights on development through culture and indigenous wisdom



### **Shri Kedar Kulkarni:**

Shri Kedar Kulkarni from the Heritage Foundation, Guwahati, discussed the colonial experience and its impact on indigenous communities. He suggested that self-sufficiency can be achieved by following one's own dharma (duty) and highlighted the importance of being governed by sustainability and development.



Overall, the panel discussion featured diverse perspectives on the sub-theme, with speakers discussing issues related to sustainability, indigenous knowledge, cultural preservation, and the impact of colonial experiences. Each speaker contributed valuable insights to the topic of diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect.

## Forth Plenary Session

### REVITALIZATION OF ANCIENT CULTURE FOR A MORE HARMONIOUS AND INCLUSIVE WORLD ORDER AND DIVERSE ISSUES-CIVILISATION SOLUTIONS

#### Moderator

Shri Shyam Parande, Global Coordinator of Seva International, moderated the session.

Following are the few highlights of the session:



#### Dr. Shashi Bala:

Dr. Shashi Bala, International Coordinator, DIMR and President International Council of Cultural Studies, India, discussed the differences between desert and river cultures and their impact on human life. She highlighted the contrast between Western and non-Western cultures, where the former often emphasizes individualism ("I") and the latter focuses on collectivism ("We"). She outlined the objectives of the seminar theme and suggested ways to achieve them, including understanding and respecting other cultures without discrimination and documenting the chief characteristics of native cultures.

#### Dr. Mindahi Cresencio Bastida Munoz:

Dr. Mindahi Cresencio Bastida Munoz focused on the diversity of Mexican languages and the loss of diversity due to anthropocentrism. He stressed the importance of traditional ancient knowledge for humanity's survival and urged a return to family, community, and collective dignity.





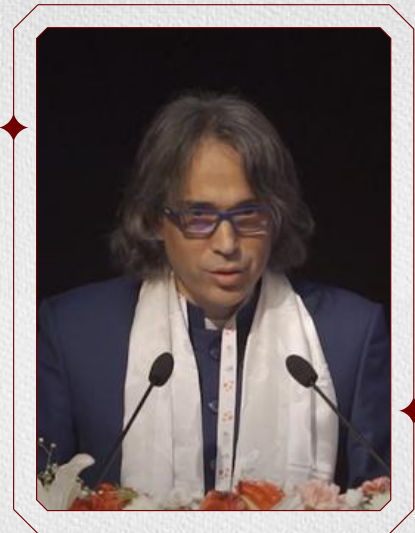


**Dr. Naira Mkrtchyan:**

Dr. Naira Mkrtchyan from Armenia discussed the education of Generation Z and Generation Alpha, focusing on their physical and mental health.

**Shri. Hyungjin An:**

Shri. Hyungjin An from South Korea highlighted the destruction of ancient cultures but pointed to India as an example of revitalizing lost legacies.



**His Excellency Shri. Alfredo Caldera Guzman:**

His Excellency focused on the culture and diversity of Venezuela and called for its recognition by UNESCO.

**His Excellency Shri. Jason Keats Matthew Hall:**

His Excellency spoke about oneness, referring to it not as a singular concept but a plural one.







**Professor Esmeralda Sanchez:**

Professor Sanchez from the Philippines discussed the reawakening of ancient culture and the need to take from nature only what is necessary.

**Smt. Assel Adilbekova:**

Smt. Adilbekova from Kazakhstan emphasized that diverse panoramic views, when combined, can achieve diversity with mutual respect. She suggested restoring food, festivals, and cultural art forms to revitalize ancient culture.



**Shri. Juan Jose Saenz:**

Shri. Juan Jose Saenz from Ecuador highlighted the celebration of diversity and the unifying power of music.

**Kumari Sujata Nayak:**

Kumari Sujata Nayak, Secretary Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya Arunachal Pradesh Trust discussed the difference between contract-based and relationship-based societies, suggesting that the latter should be allowed to define their own human rights framework. She also encouraged reevaluating the terms "majority" and "minority" on a global scale.





The moderator concluded the session with remarks about human duties towards the world of creation.

## Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was hosted by Bulia Pulu, a lawyer and member of the Enjalumenda Women's Empowerment Forum. The session included an invocation prayer by students, felicitation of dignitaries, a summary of the seminar by Padmashree Nivedita Bhide, a report reading by the rapporteur, speeches by Shri Tapir Gao and Shri Chowna Mein, and a vote of thanks by Shri Bhanudas Dhakras.

**Shri Tapir Gao** praised the seminar's success and emphasized the importance of embracing differences for unity and survival. Shri Chowna Mein promised to consider the seminar's recommendations and encouraged delegates to take a part of Namsai and Arunachal Pradesh with them.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by **Shri Bhanudas Dhakras**, General Secretary, Vivekananda Rock Memorial & Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari.

Overall, the seminar provided a platform for diverse perspectives on diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect and concluded with a focus on actionable outcomes and continued efforts towards a more inclusive world.





# Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect (DIMR): Policy Recommendations



## Introduction:

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are terms used to describe policies and programs that promote the representation and participation of different groups of individuals and encompass people of different ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, disabilities, genders, religions, cultures and sexual orientations. The term *Equity* is essential for Inclusion but if Diversity is to be sustainable it must be accompanied by *Mutual Respect*. This is the rationale that led this year's C20 Working Group to adopt the theme of *Diversity, Inclusion, and Mutual Respect*. 'Mutual Respect' is essential for Diversity and Inclusion to flourish in a harmonious society. The need for a diverse approach to development was recognized by the leaders of G20 for the first time in 2005. The G20 communique of 2005 said, "*We recognized there is no uniform development approach that fits all countries. Each country should be able to choose the development approaches and policies that best suit its specific characteristics...*". The recognition of diverse approaches and methods further needs to be taken forward in other areas of social life.

**The Diversity Inclusion and Mutual Respect Working Group** considered four **sub-themes**:

### 1. Respecting native traditions all over the world and their representation

The combination of imperialism, commercialism, and exclusive religious and political ideologies have driven various native traditions to the wall to the extent that some have almost become extinct. But these traditions (including Indian traditions) have prominently contributed to protection of environment and biodiversity by their very practices.<sup>16</sup> Their traditional wisdom about protection of environment, harmonious social life, herbal knowledge and skills are very important for the world. They should be supported and given the place and prominence in international forums. The world saw biased research towards traditional cultures, customs, communities discrediting them as evil, false, backward and superstitious with governmental machinery being used to establish these biases. The tangible and intangible damage caused to these communities has affected them profoundly and remains unrepaired to this day.

Today it is generally acknowledged even by the United Nations that "there is an urgent need for new approach.... which emphasize(s) harmony among peoples and between humans and



nature, equity, dignity, well-being and sustainability. These new approaches should fully acknowledge the role of culture as a system of values and a resource and framework to build truly sustainable development.... We recognize that one size does not fit all and that different cultural perspectives will result in different paths to development. At the same time, we embrace an understanding of culture that is open, evolving and strongly framed within a rights-based approach and respect for diversity, free access to which enables individuals "to live and be what they choose", thus enhancing their opportunities and human capabilities while promoting mutual understanding and exchange among peoples." [1]

## Recommendations:

### G20 governments must:

- **Establish research centres** for the study of diverse indigenous communities to find solutions from traditional wisdom of indigenous/traditional communities, solving complex global problems.
- **Voice and support the traditional communities** in the remotest parts of all countries who have been practicing sustainable development with unique mechanisms suiting their environmental, material, intellectual and spiritual needs.
- **Legislate "Right to Culture"** or way of life by governments all over the world- it forms a fundamental principle of cultural freedom, freedom of thought, well-being, expression, religion, faith, forms, etc.
- **Stop religious intolerance**, terrorism, intolerance towards ancient ways of life by means of vandalism of ancient monuments, places of worship, academic terrorism by academically disputing and misrepresenting ancient cultures.
- **Establish a department** for the promotion of indigenous faith and culture.
- **Include ancient native philosophy and cultural values** included in textbooks to make it a part of the educational system to mould the future generations to save natural resources, degradation of earth, environmental pollution, and to prevent conflicts, wars, etc.
- **Bring the native medical knowledge and practices** into the mainstream to help overburdened modern medical system, which will be a low cost-high benefit method to help the world.
- **Have a G20 forum for networking and exchange** among traditional communities where representatives of native cultures of the world would meet annually to support native skills, wisdom traditions, regional herbs and food for better health, to save species at the brink of extinction, reduce global warming, prevent ethnic strife, restore ecological balance, etc.



## 2. **Persons with physical and mental disabilities, economically backward sections, and children born with HIV/AIDS who need special care and acceptance in the society.**

About 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability, of whom 2-4% experience significant difficulties in functioning<sup>1</sup>. Around 970 million people suffer from mental disabilities<sup>2</sup>. It is acknowledged that many social, economic and infrastructural changes have been witnessed in the 21st century to suit persons with disabilities. However, these are not adequate to address the needs of persons with disabilities (PWD). People affected by various physical, sensory, motor, neuro-physiological, behavioural, cognitive or multiple challenges have impediments to live life with happiness and to contribute to the progress of a family and society when they are not treated with holistic care. When their impediments are well-handled, then, instead of dependency, the PWDs can contribute in multiple ways and shoulder bigger responsibilities. The imparting of value education should include information about disabilities and how society/family should care for it and work for its cure.

### **Recommendations**

- **Early identification and early intervention** with AI apps, referral network, eco-system for functional independence, technology-solutions catering for special needs, tax incentives for the products that are vital for successful rehabilitation.
- **Knowledge bases** relevant to disability and intervention systems should be built and libraries with information and databases should be accessible in most global languages.
- Measures to give concessions and reservations for education and jobs to the economically weaker sections to cross over the poverty line
- **Rehabilitation training:** Educational curriculum at school level should include inputs about different types of disabilities and their management. For example, medical education should accommodate the basics of early interventions and rehabilitation services.
- **HIV-affected children since birth should be considered as persons with disabilities and** should be provided with timely medical support at hospitals/health-centres. Designated medical facilities in a district can nominate a section to treat HIV-affected persons.

## 3. **Persons irrespective of their biological sex identity, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression need to live with respect in society by respecting each other.**

Though under the acronym LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual etc.) all the persons with different sexual orientation and gender identity are included



it was found that the needs of each group is different. Thus, to take care of the rights and needs of all these persons the formulation of policies should be more diverse, precise and purposeful. All should not be subjected to fit in the needs of one or other group. Many European countries are adopting a very cautious approach towards gender treatment for children. Many countries have banned the irreversible surgeries for the children or have adopted very restricted approach, even 18 states in USA have banned surgeries on children.<sup>12</sup> We need to take a long-term view that protects family and society, along with material and spiritual well-being of human beings and their rights to live life happily and purposefully. In India and many other countries, intersex have their own systems, temples, festivals etc., which give them spiritual succour. These temples and festivals need to be protected as these give spiritual identity and path to this group of people.

## Recommendations

### G20 government must:

- **Make different policies** to take care of diverse needs of the persons combined in the term LGBTQ+.
- **Provide hostels/shelters for intersex children** who are generally discarded by families.
- **Ban treatments** such as puberty blockers, life-long hormones, and irreversible surgeries for gender transformation among transgender children as many countries have already done.
- **Protect the indigenous religious traditions** of the persons covered in the term LGBTQI+.
- **Preserve living spiritual traditions** for the intersex and gender non-conforming persons as done in India, Thailand and other countries are doing to provide them spiritual succour and space.
- 'International Study Center' should be established in India for the study, protection and promotion of these indigenous traditions existing amongst intersex and gender non-conforming persons all over the world.

#### 4. Respecting the methods and approaches adopted by various countries, cultures, and communities to solve their problems and interpret terms like human rights, etc. in the light of their cultural ethos

Today, the discourse on human rights needs further refinement. In protecting the rights of the



rights of the accused whether in cases of terrorism or in those involving violence against women, the right to dignity and privacy as well as the right to life of the victims often gets overlooked. Further, in-depth protection of rights of all is required.

The human rights discourse has evolved in the United Nations system over the past four decades. While recognising that the human rights machinery is mostly treaty-based, that is, anchored in international law, where the State that ratifies the treaty willingly assumes legally binding obligations under the treaty and submits periodic compliance reports to the respective treaty body, subjecting itself to scrutiny by the treaty body for monitoring of compliance. and while accepting that it must not give any member State a pass in the name of cultural ethos or freedom to “interpret” human rights, it is perhaps time to launch a discourse that looks upon human being not only as an individual but in terms of his connections and responsibilities towards his family, society, nature, etc. Many traditional societies even today are not just contract-based but also relations-based. Thus, the diverse ways in which various issues related with human life are dealt with within various cultural contexts need to be respected.

The G20 communique of the year 2005, says,

*We recognized there is no uniform development approach that fits all countries. Each country should be able to choose the development approaches and policies that best suit its specific characteristics, while benefiting from their accumulated experience in policy making over the last decades, including the importance of strong macroeconomic policies for sustained growth.*

The time has come that, not only in economic development, but in all round development ‘no one size fits all’ is to be adopted. The diversity of ways of development also are to be recognized. Every culture must have the right to follow one’s own civilizational values through vision of life, values of life and develop systems to implement the same, not on the basis of uniformity or mechanical sameness but a living Oneness where the care of all is taken and the diversity of individuals as well as communities and the methods adopted by them to protect the freedom and happiness of all is respected.

## Recommendations

### G20 government must:

- **Declare** as was done in case of economic development in the communique of 2005 that there is no one model that fits all even in the development of human beings and society and culture.



## Udharans or Best Practices

- 'Microsign', an enterprise at Bhavnagar, Gujarat is a successful example of how differently abled persons are sought after and constitute preferred staff. It's 60% workforce are differently-abled as preferred HR. Harvard business review mentions it in its publication March 16, 2016, based on the study of IIM Ahmedabad.
- A residential school at Rang a very remote part of East Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh is a living example of imparting of modern education with cultural ethos. The students learn modern subjects based on a curriculum prescribed by the Central Board of Secondary Education. Subjects such as indigenous arts like dances, songs, etc., sports, crafts like weaving, basket making, and environment, chanting hymns-verses, singing devotional songs, folklores and tales comprise of cultural and traditional wisdom. It has caught the attention of many other tribes in that part as the right way to 'development with culture'; i.e. to develop in modern way as well as to retain the diverse cultural identity.

## Some References



### HIV Statistics - Global and Regional Trends

Of the estimated 39.0 million [confidence bounds: 33.0-45.7 million] people living with HIV worldwide in 2022, 2.58 million [1.91-3.47 million]



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### Gopi Shankar Madurai

Gopi Shankar Madurai is an Indian equal rights and Indigenous rights activist. Shankar was one of the youngest, and the first openly inter



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**The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People**

Building a Foundation for Better Understanding  
 Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Issues and Research Gaps and Opportunities  
 Washington (DC): National Academies Press (IOM); 2011.  
 ISBN-13 978-0-309-21981-4 ISBN-10 0-309-21981-1

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Excerpt  
 Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals experience unique health disparities. Although the acronym LGBT is used as an umbrella term, and the health needs of this community are often grouped together, each of these letters represents a distinct population with its own health concerns. Furthermore, among lesbians, gay men, bisexual men and women, and transgender people, there are subpopulations based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, geographic location, age, and other factors. Although a modest body of knowledge on LGBT health has been developed, these populations, stigmatized as sexual and gender minorities, have been the subject of relatively little health research. As a result, a number of questions arise: "What is currently known about the health status of LGBT populations? Where do gaps in the research exist? What are the priorities for a research agenda to address these gaps?"

At the request of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Institute of Medicine convened a consensus committee to answer these questions. The 17-member Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Issues and Research Gaps and Opportunities comprised experts in the fields of mental health, biostatistics, clinical medicine, adolescent health and development, aging, parenting, behavioral sciences, HIV research, demography, racial and ethnic disparities, and health services. The committee was asked to conduct a review and prepare a report assessing the state of the science on the health status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations; identify research gaps and opportunities; and outline a research agenda that will assist NIH in enhancing its research efforts in this area.

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By Azeen Ghorayshi June 10, 2022

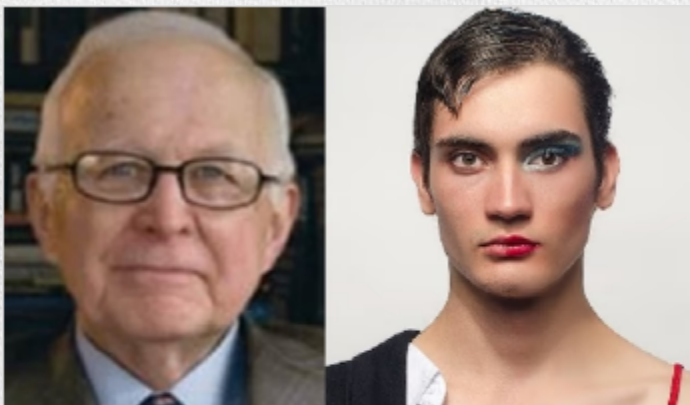
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Bioethics Res Int. 2018; 2018: 9652305  
Published online 2018 Jun 13 doi: 10.1155/2018/9652305

PMCID: PMC6020665  
PMID: 30009180

### Gender Dysphoria: Bioethical Aspects of Medical Treatment

Marta R. Bizic,<sup>1,2</sup> Milos Jettovic,<sup>1,3</sup> Slavica Pucica,<sup>1,3</sup> Borko Stojanovic,<sup>1,2</sup> Draogana Dusan,<sup>1,3</sup> Svetlana Vucovic,<sup>1,3</sup> Vojin Rakic,<sup>4</sup> and Miroslav L. Djordjevic<sup>1,3</sup>

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#### Abstract

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Gender affirmation surgery remains one of the greatest challenges in transgender medicine. In recent years, there have been continuous discussions on bioethical aspects in the treatment of persons with gender dysphoria. Gender reassignment is a difficult process, including not only hormonal treatment with possible surgery but also social discrimination and stigma. There is a great variety between countries in specified tasks involved in gender reassignment, and a complex combination of medical treatment and legal paperwork is required in most cases. The most frequent bioethical questions in transgender medicine pertain to the optimal treatment of adolescents, sterilization as a requirement for legal recognition, role of fertility and parenthood, and regret after gender reassignment. We review the recent literature with respect to any new information on bioethical aspects related to medical treatment of people with gender dysphoria.



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 G20 agriculture ministers meet in Hyderabad, June 16-18, 2023, and issue outcome document with chair's summary on June 18  
 G20 development ministers meet in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, June 12, 2023: Chair's summary and outcome document, SDG action plan and High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development  
 Capital Adequacy Frameworks Panel's report Capital Adequacy Frameworks Panel (2022), "Boosting MDBs' Investing Capacity, supported by the 2020 and 2021 G20 presidencies, as well as two risks by Risk Control Limited  
 G20 foreign ministers meet in New Delhi: Chair's Summary and Outcome Document, March 3, 2023

### New Delhi Summit, September 9-10, 2023

Road to the 2023 New Delhi Summit | Documents | Official summit website  
 Summits and Ministerial Meetings  
 Summits | Finance ministers and central bankers | Other ministerial meetings  
 About the G20  
 Members | Other Official Publications  
 What is the G20? (by the G20 Research Group)  
 Backgrounder (by the Department of Finance of Canada, 2000)  
 The Group of Twenty: A History (produced by the G20, 2008)  
 G20 Websites  
 Official G20 Website | International Monetary Fund's Principal Global Indicators  
 Research and Resources by the G20 Research Group  
 Analysis | Compliance Reports | Commitments | G20 Compliance Simulator | Bibliography | Fact Sheets (combined with G8 Research Group) | Background Books | Conferences and Events | Commentary  
 Engagement Groups  
 Business 20/B20 | Think 20 | Civil 20/C20 | Labour 20/L20 | Science 20/S20 | Supreme Audit Institutions 20/SAI20 | Women's 20/W20 | Urban 20/U20  
 Global Solutions Initiative and G20 Research Group Synthesis Recommendations  
 About the G20 Research Group | G20 Research Group Photo Album  
 Related Summits  
 BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) | Group of Five | Group of Eight  
 Partners and Other Institutions  
 Global Solutions Initiative and G20 Insights Platform  
 Center for International Institutions Research (CIIR) of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) | International Organisations Research Journal  
 G20 Research Center at the Shanghai International Studies University  
 G20 Digest, published by Research and Information System for Developing Countries  
 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's OECD and the G20  
 Heinrich Böll Foundation's G20 and BRICS Updates and other G20-related resources  
 G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance  
 Global Health Diplomacy Program

### What's New in G20 Research

G20 Compliance Simulator developed by Jessica Rapson, estimates the probability that each G20 member will fulfill a given commitment made at a G20 summit.  
 2022 Bali Summit Interim Compliance Report, monitoring actions taken from November 17, 2022, to April 29, 2023  
 John Kirton: Strengthening Climate Action through International Financial Institutional Reform, June 10, 2023  
 Right Honourable Paul Martin: What is the role of the G20? Remarks at Senior College, January 25, 2023 46' - see also remarks by Peter Hajnal and John Kirton  
 Yiyao Wenyi Jin: Closing Pandora's Box? The Relationship Between China and the United States Since the G20 Summit in Bali, January 29, 2023  
 John Kirton: The G20's Promising Past, Present and Potential, January 26, 2023  
 John Kirton: The 2022 G20 Bali Summit's Substantial Performance, January 19, 2023  
 John Kirton: Improving G20 Integration and Implementation for SOG Support, January 13, 2023  
 Jennifer Miao Wang: Bilateral Meetings at Bali: Trends, Observations and Notable Moments, December 15, 2022  
 Brittaney Warren: Bali and Sharm El Sheikh — The G20-UN Relationship on Climate Change, December 14, 2022  
 All 222 commitments made by G20 leaders at th Bali Summit, December 13, 2022  
 Erica Matsui: Making the Just Energy Transition Project Just, December 12, 2022  
 Dennis Radtich: Crypto, Anti-corruption and Anti-money Laundering Initiatives at the G20 Bali Summit, December 8, 2022  
 Sonja Dobson: "Dear G19," December 8, 2022  
 Purvaja Modak: India's 2023 G20 Presidency: What to Expect? November 29, 2022

## Kenneth Zucker



Kenneth J. Zucker (/ˈkɛnɪθ ˈdʒɛɪ ˈzʊkər/; born 1950) is an American-Canadian psychologist and sexologist. He was named editor-in-chief of Archives of Sexual...

W Wikipedia / Aug 25



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## World Report on Disability

About 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability, of whom 2-4% experience significant difficulties in functioning. The global...

who.int



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## Mental disorders

Facts sheet on mental disorders: key facts, depression, dementia, health and support and WHO response

who.int

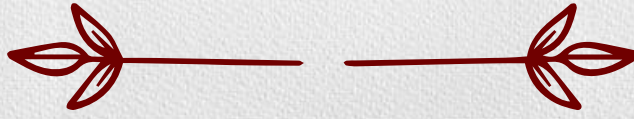


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## C20 SUMMIT SEMINAR - JAIPUR



The working group Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect participated in C20 Summit Seminar at Jaipur on the 29th - 31st July 2023. The Civil 20 Summit is a pivotal event aimed at presenting the policy recommendations formulated by the 16 Working Groups of Civil 20 India that have resulted from the significant deliberations with worldwide civil society organizations over the past year. The summit serves as a platform to showcase and handover these recommendations to the G20, with the ultimate goal of influencing global policy-making processes.

The program for the Civil 20 Summit encompassed five main types of sessions, each designed to facilitate official ceremonies, comprehensive discussions and presentations on various topics.

**Inaugural Event:** The event was inaugurated by lighting of the lamp, accompanied by prayers from the Upanishads for a peaceful and happy world. The delegates were welcomed by Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, Troika, Civil 20 India, followed by address by Sherpa C20, Amb. Vijay K. Nambiar. The inaugural address was delivered by Sri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Defense, Govt of India who said that Civil Societies are not a modern phenomenon but have played an important role on the ground throughout history, all over the world to bring substantial information to the governments as the voice of the people. Robust Civil Societies are essential for formulating meaningful and welfare-oriented government policies.





Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, Chair Civil 20 India focused on the contributions of this year's Civil 20 India which was based on the ancient philosophy of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakkam** (the world is one family). "The purpose of education must be character building which must be achieved by spirituality and sense of swadharma". Said Amma while recognizing the contribution of the Civil Society organizations towards promoting holistic health, gender equality, disability rights, climate change, sustainable development, social inclusion, Sewa, etc. She focused on the extraordinary feminine power inherent in women which can immensely contribute in making this a happy planet if women are given the right opportunities and respected. Mental health, holistic living through yoga, nurturing families and relationships, safe internet were the other focus areas of the speech.

Sri M, The Satsang Foundation and institutional partner C20 India spoke about the Indian philosophy of Lokasamstha Sukhino Bhavantu which means - **May All Beings Everywhere Be Happy and Free.**

The inaugural event was also attended by Smt. Shakuntala Rawat, Cabinet Minister of Industries and Devathanam, Government of Rajasthan, India, Mr Shombi Sharp, Resident Coordinator, United Nations and Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Patron of the secretariat, Civil 20 India. The Vote of thanks was proposed by Smt Nivedita Bhide, All India Vice President Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari and Institutional Partner Civil 20 India.

**Sessions:** There were five sessions based on the recommendations of the 16 working groups and future global policy formulations. The sessions with the hosts and name of participants are listed as follows:

### **1. Technology, Education and Empowerment in a changing world**

**Hosts:** Dr Joost Monks, Civil 20 IAC, Switzerland.

Shri Ah Maftuchan, Civil 20 Troika, Indonesia.

**Participants:** Smt. Elizabeth Moreno, Former Hon'ble Minister Delegate for Gender, Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, France.

Dr Tuan Nguyen, Founder and CEO, Boston Global Forum, USA.

Dr Niklaus-Samuel Gugger, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Switzerland.

### **2. Financing SDGs and Ensuring Resilience for People and Planet**

**Hosts:** Shri. Riccardo Moro, Civil 20 IAC, Italy, Sri Ritesh Kumar Singh (IAS), Principal Secretary, Dept of School Education and Literacy, Karnataka, India.



**Participants:** Shri. Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator, India  
Shri. Harald Drager, President, The International Emergency Management Society, Oslo, Norway.

Dr. V. Anantha Nageseswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India

### **3. Global Public Goods for an Inclusive and Harmonious world**

**Hosts:** Smt. Naila Chowdhury, Civil 20 IAC, Bangladesh/US, Smt. Pedro Bocca, Civil 20 IAC, Brazil

**Participants:** Smt. Kusumadewi Suharaya (DY), Founder and Director, Alzheimer's Disease International, Indonesia

Dr Mark Suzman, CEO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USA

Ambassador Shri. Abhay Thakur, G20 Sous Sherpa, India

### **4. Resource Stewardship and Democratic Engagement**

**Hosts:** Smt. Binny Buchori, Civil 20 IAC, Indonesia, Smt. Guillermina Alaniz, Civil 20 IAC, Argentina

**Participants:** Shri. Benedetto Zacchioli, President, ECCAR, Italy

Smt. Ela Ionescu, Partnership Specialist, UN Women, Europe and Central Asia

Dr Indira Khurana, Chairperson, The Indian Himalayan River Basins Council, India

### **5. Holistic Wellbeing and Inclusive Societies**

**Hosts:** Dr Andy Caarmone, Civil 20 IAC, Amb Gopinathan Achamkulangare, Ambassador and Inspector, UN-JIU(Retired).

**Participants:** Smt. Loune Viaud, Gender and Social Equity Officer, Partners in Health, Haiti

Shri. Mohammed Haji Alkhoori, Director General, Khalifa Bin Zayed Nahyan Foundation, United Arab Emirates

Dr C.P. Joshi, Hon'ble Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, India





C20 Summit Jaipur: Day Three

**Civil 20 India Summit 2023**

29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023, Jaipur, Rajasthan



# DAY 3 HIGHLIGHTS

31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2023, MONDAY

Watch on YouTube



## DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, MUTUAL RESPECT

Civil20 Working Group

PPT



वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE



**Breakout Sessions (DIMR):** The Breakout sessions were based on the work and the policy recommendations of the 16 working groups. The Breakout session of this working group DIMR was held on the 31st July 2023. A Power Point Presentation followed by a short video was released on the activities of the working group.

Dr Sashi Bala, President International Council of Cultural Studies India and International Coordinator DIMR said "The world was earlier talking about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion. This was a term which was used to describe policies and represented the participation of individuals from different communities of the world irrespective of race, ethnicity, genders, religion, sexual orientation etc. But soon the world realised that as equity is essential for inclusion then if diversity needs to be sustained mutual respect is fundamental to the same." She further briefed on the sub-themes of the working group.

'We all are affected by the positive and negative vibrations emitting from art, music, food, drinks, religious symbols and memorials. Only Sattva predominant actions and thoughts emit positive vibrations', this was inferred from a research paper presented by Shri. Sean Clarke, who is one of the researchers (and a seeker of 'Maharshi Adhyatma Vishwavidyalay', a spiritual research university at Goa, India. Shri. Clarke presented a research paper on 'How to choose between Dharma and Adharma in everyday life?' This article is written by Sacchidananda Para brahman (Dr) Athavale (Founder of MAV) where Mr Sean Clarke is the co-author.

Shri. Sean Clarke's findings were based on the experiments conducted through scientific equipment - 'Universal Aura Scanner' and 'Polycontrast Interference Photography' and also spiritually enhanced analysis employed by the MAV. Three pictures were selected for the research - one that denigrated Goddess Shri Lakshmi drawn by a famous painter, a common image of Goddess Shri Lakshmi available in the market and a picture drawn under the guidance of a Saint. When these were studied with the help of the aforementioned equipment, the picture drawn by the famous painter was found emitting negative vibrations, while the commonly available picture was found not emitting any vibrations. Unlike these two pictures, the picture drawn under the guidance of a Saint had the highest propensity to attract the Lakshmi Principle and emitted maximum positive vibrations. Similarly, research was conducted on the colour of clothes. A black and a white cloth were studied with the help of the aforementioned equipment. The experiment revealed that the white cloth had a positive energy aura of 18.75 meters, and the black cloth did not have any positive energy aura around it.

In addition, Shri. Sean Clarke also presented the research findings related to food, drinks and entertainment. He explained in detail the effects of each of these elements of our daily life and the positive vibrations emitted by them.

**Concluding Session:** Dr Joram Begi, Chairman Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture and National Coordinator of DIMR concluded the session with a mention of a few recommendations of the working group to the G20 nations namely:



- Right to way of life.
- Legislating right to Culture-Stop any kind of intolerance towards terrorism, religious vandalism of ancient monuments, places of worship and academic terrorism by academically disputing and misrepresenting ancient cultures.

The session was highly interactive and participative.

**Valedictory Function**-The three-day event concluded with the release and handing over of the Policy Pack by the C20 Sherpa to G20 Sherpa. Besides the official transfer of C20 policies and C20 flag to Brazil in the presence of the Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, India Shri Kalraj Mishra and Smt Vasundhara Raje Scindia, Former Chief Minister and Vice President Bharatiya Janata Party.

While handing over the Policy Pack Hon'ble Governor mentioned the ancient verse of India:

*Shubham Karoti Kalyanam  
Aarogyam Sukh-Sampada  
Aatmvriddhi Prakashaay  
Dusht Buddhi Vinashay  
Deepak Jyoti namostute*

"The motto of Civil 20 is very apt 'You are the light' may the Policy Pack be a light to the lives of people and illumine the world towards happiness." said Shri Mishra.





## Annexure-I

### List of Dignitaries-Chaupals and Samajshalas



#### India

##### Government Of India

- Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Govt. of India
- Ms. Indu Bala Goswami, Hon'ble Member, Rajya Sabha, Government of India

##### Arunachal Pradesh

- Shri Pema Khandu, Honourable Chief Minister
- Shri Chowna Mein, Deputy Chief Minister
- Shri Mama Natung, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Shri Pasang Dorjee Sona, Speaker, Legislative Assembly
- Shri Mama Natung Hon'ble Minister, Government of Arunachal Pradesh
- Smt. J E Deori, MLA
- Chau Ziingnu Namchoom, MLA
- Shri Hage Kojeen (Retd IAS and Chairperson, VKIC Arunachal Pradesh Chapter)

##### Assam

- Smt. Nandita Garlosa, Honourable Minister, Indigenous and Tribal Faith and Culture Department
- Smt. Seema Rekha Bhuyan, IAS, Special Secretary
- Prof. R M Pant, Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar, Assam.
- Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University
- Mrs Rituporna Das, Circle Officer, SDO civil Incharge Bokakhat.

##### Tripura

- Sri Jishnu Deb Varma, Former Deputy Chief Minister
- Prof. G.P Prasain, Vice Chancellor Tripura University
- Dr. Deepak Sharma, Registrar, Tripura University
- Prof. Satyadeo Poddar, Vice Chancellor, Maharaja Bir Bikram University
- Shri Siddhartha Shankar Dey, Advocate General





## **Jharkhand**

- Sri P R K Naidu, IPS, Rtd. DGP, Vice Chancellor of Raksha Shakti University, Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Prof. K B Panda, Registrar, University of Jharkhand
- Dr J N Nayak, OSD, Government of Jharkhand

## **Andhra Pradesh**

- Prof T V Kattimani, Vice Chancellor, Central Tribal University, Vizianagaram.

## **Uttarakhand**

- Smt. Jyoti Shah Mishra, Vice Chairperson, Uttarakhand State Commission for Women.

## **Uttar Pradesh**

- Shri Asim Arun - Minister of State - Independent charge social welfare
- Shri Avanish Awasthi - Advisor to Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

## **Himachal Pradesh**

- Prof. S.P Bansal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh,

## **Goa**

- Dr Pramod Sawant, Honourable Chief Minister of Goa
- Shri Rohan Khaunte, Honourable Minister of Tourism, Information Technology, Electronics and Communication, Printing and Stationery, Goa
- Shri Govind Gaude, Minister for Sports, Art and Culture, and Rural Development
- Captain Dilip Donde, 1st Indian to complete a solo unassisted circumnavigation of the globe in a sail boat
- Sadguru Cyriaque Vallee, Spiritualist, Germany
- Hans-Martin Heierling, Co-Founder House Of Balance, Davos Switzerland
- Ajit Padmanabh, Who VR CEO, TEDx speaker with a vision to elevate the collective consciousness of humanity through ancient heritage and technology
- Maneesh Tripathy, CEO Marble Rocks VCC Funds-Singapore, HQ, Board Member-Singapore, Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), Alumnus of IIM Calcutta
- Dr Nishi Bhatt, leading Doctor in the emerging field of Holistic and Neurological treatments involving Ayurveda, Naturopathy and various healing modalities.
- Saurav Khanna, General manager at The Park Hotels.
- Shweta Clarke, Alumnus of Lady Shriram College, and an integral part of the Spiritual Research and Web Publication Team and has conducted workshops all over SE Asia.
- Professor (Dr.) Manoj Kamat, Principal of Srinivassa Sinai Dempo College of Commerce and Economics, Alumnus of IIT, IIM. Author, Orator, Columnist.





- Sean Clarke, editor of SSRF.org (a leading spiritual research website), alumnus of Monash Mt. Eliza Business School, Spiritual Research Team Lead at MAV.
- Vrinda Khanna, National Secretary at Sant Eshwer Foundation, National Outreach Co Ordinator, C 20(G 20)

### **Others**

- Ms. Nidhi Goyal, Member C20 Steering Committee
- Mr Saurabh Goel, Executive President Havells India Ltd.
- Shri Bharat Gupta, CEO Jagran New Media, DEI.
- Ms Payal Koul, Independent Director of Hinduja Technology Ltd.

### **Thailand**

- Sri. Korn Dabbaransi, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

### **Costa Rica**

- H.E. Mr. Claudio Ansorena from the Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica

### **Jamaica**

- H.E. Mr. Jason K. M. Hall from Jamaican High Commission.

### **Lithuania**

- Mr. Zymantas Mozuraitis, Deputy Head of Mission at Embassy of Lithuania to India
- Dr. Ignas Sadauskas, Lithuanian Guru.



## Annexure-II

### List of Civil Society Organizations



## Chaupals

[Click here for List](#)

## Youth- Samajshalas

[Click here for List](#)

## Women- Samajshalas

[Click here for List](#)

## All- Samajshalas

[Click here for List](#)





# Partners



VANVASI KALYAN ASHRAM



DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION



DEORI SAHITYA SABHA



ARUNACHAL PRADESH



Vivekananda International Foundation India



कला एवं साहित्य की अखिल भारतीय संस्था



VIVEKANANDA KENDRA Natural Resources Development Project



Multiple Action Research Group



Light of Life Trust





The theme of the cover page signifies the unification of the world through the sun.

In the extreme left is **Donyipolo**, that is worship of Sun and Moon among various communities of North-East India prosperity, fertility and protection from calamities. This indigenous faith believes in love, compassion, equality and selflessness. The ethical dimension of Donyi-Polo also means purity, beauty, and simplicity.

In the extreme right is the carving at **Navagraha temple** dedicated to Sooriyan in Tamil Nadu that have a cluster of nine temples dedicated to the nine celestial planets according to Hindu astronomy.

At the top is the **Martand temple** in the Kashmir valley of Jammu & Kashmir which from archaeological findings it was an excellent specimen of Kashmiri architecture which had blended the Gandharan, Gupta and Chinese forms of architecture.

At the bottom is the **Sun temple** dedicated to the solar deity Surya located at Modhera village of Mehsana district of Gujarat. The temple shows the strength of the natural elements fire, air, earth, water and sky.

Thus, the four temples depict the unity and diversity existing in all the directions of the Indian subcontinent which portrays the strength, power and depicts the oneness and integrity with all the communities.

