

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

SPEECH COMPETITION: SIGN organized an insightful speech competition for +2 students, focusing on significant legal frameworks that safeguard the rights of tribal communities in India. The topics of the competition were the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (CNT Act)**, the **5th Schedule of the Constitution**, and the **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA)**.



The event was held at two locations within Ranchi District: **Mandar on December 6, 2024**, and **Lohardaga on December 10, 2024**. This event aimed to enhance the knowledge of students on these important legal frameworks that protect the rights of tribal communities in India. The competition served multiple purposes: a) **Awareness Creation:** Educating students about the laws that uphold the rights of Tribal people, b) **Skill Development:** Enhancing public speaking and research skills among students. c) **Civic Engagement:**

Instilling a sense of responsibility and the importance of active citizenship. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students showcasing their understanding of these crucial legal provisions through impactful speeches. Many participants highlighted the need for a stronger implementation of these laws to ensure justice and development for tribal communities. Competition held at Anne's +2 High School, the event saw **7 participants**. The winners were: in the First Position: Sanjana Lakra, in the second position: Nishi Riya Lakra and in the third position: Arjun Kujur, whereas competition held at Lohardaga had **36 participants** from two colleges: **Baldev Sahi College** and **Nandlal +2 High School, Arru**, where Roshni Bhagat from Nandlal +

High School, Arru secured the first position, Satish Lakra from Baldev Sahi College, Lohardaga secured second position and Aeram Saba from Nandlal + 2 High School was judged for the third position. The competition helped students develop a deeper understanding of the historical and constitutional significance of these laws. It also served as an eye-opener regarding the importance of tribal rights and governance. According to the staff, such competitions are essential in building a responsible and informed society for the future. By sparking curiosity and passion among young minds, the speech competition succeeded in raising awareness about tribal rights and governance. Events like these play a vital role in preparing future leaders who are not only knowledgeable but also conscious of the socio-legal dynamics of the country.



HEALTH CAMP: In an effort to promote well-being and healthcare access, on 15th December at SDC, Ranchi, SIGN (Social Initiatives for Growth and Networking) organized a free health camp at the Social Development Centre, in collaboration with



Shalby Divine Hospital. The event, held with the support of healthcare professionals from Shalby Divine Hospital, provided free medical consultations and diagnostic services to those in need.

The health camp featured a team of esteemed doctors, who offered their expertise to more than 50 attendees, ensuring they received comprehensive care. The team included:

- **Dr. Vikram Tirkey**, Managing and Medical Director of Shalby Divine Hospital, who provided general medical consultations and valuable health advice.

- **Dr. Deonis Xess**, Senior Consultant

Rheumatologist & Immunologist, Director, and Head of the Department of Rheumatology at Shalby Divine Hospital, who addressed issues related to joint and autoimmune conditions.

- **Dr. Anupa Khalkho**, a skilled Pulmonologist, who examined patients for respiratory health and lung conditions.
- **Dr. Suhagani Hembrom**, a renowned Gynaecologist & Obstetrician, who offered specialized consultations on women's health and prenatal care.

In addition to the consultations, several diagnostic tests were provided for free, ensuring a holistic approach to healthcare:

- **BMD (Bone Mineral Density) Test**, which helps in assessing bone health and the risk of osteoporosis.
- **PFT (Pulmonary Function Test)**, to check lung function and screen for respiratory diseases.



- **Free Eye Test**, which helped identify vision-related issues and offered early detection of potential eye diseases.

The health camp benefited 50 individuals by providing free health service. This event highlighted the importance of accessible healthcare and

underscored the commitment of both SIGN and Divine Hospital to serving the community. We are grateful to all the doctors and medical staff who volunteered their time and expertise, making this health camp a meaningful and impactful event.

We look forward to organizing more such initiatives in the future, ensuring that healthcare remains within reach for all members of our community

MAUSAMI RAG & TRIBAL DANCE COMPETITION: In a vibrant celebration of tribal culture, SIGN (Social Initiatives for Growth and Networking) organized the Mausami Rag and Tribal Dance Competition at Rumutukel on December 15th, 2024. The Mausami



Rag Competition featured three teams from Birdih, Kyongsar, and Dahanga, while four teams from Kyongsar, Birdih, Kankushi, and Dahanga participated in the Tribal Dance

Competition. This event aimed to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of the tribal community, providing a platform for participants to showcase their traditional art forms and fostering pride and unity within the community. The Mausami Rag competition, a unique traditional musical event, allowed participants to perform seasonal songs that reflect the deep connection between tribal communities and nature, as well as the changing seasons. The Birdih team secured first place, Kyongsar took second, and Dahanga placed third in the Mausami Rag Competition. The Tribal Dance Competition was equally captivating, with participants performing traditional dances that are integral to tribal celebrations and ceremonies. Dahanga took first place, Birdih secured second, and Kankushi earned third place. The competition highlighted the diversity of tribal dance forms, showcasing their



grace, energy, and cultural significance. This event was more than just a competition; it served as an opportunity for the younger generation to learn, appreciate, and engage with the customs and traditions of their ancestors. By organizing this event, SIGN provided the tribal community with a platform to connect with their cultural roots, while also raising awareness about the importance of preserving tribal heritage. This initiative reflects SIGN's commitment to supporting the cultural and social development of tribal communities. SIGN hopes that such events will continue to inspire and empower the tribal community, ensuring their heritage is celebrated and preserved for future generations. Through these initiatives, SIGN aims to create a platform where tribal voices are heard, and their cultural expressions are cherished. We look forward to organizing more events in the future, promoting unity, pride, and the preservation of our rich tribal heritage.

INTER-RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS MILAN SAMAROH: On December 17th, in celebration of Christmas, SIGN organized an Interreligious gathering at the Social Development Centre. Priests from various religious communities were invited to speak on this auspicious occasion. About 70 individuals from different communities attended, including representatives from the Christian community (Archbishop Vincent Aind), Muslim community (Maulana Abdul Manan Islahi from Jamate Islam), Sikh community (Dr. Devendra Singh), Tribal community (Ajay Toppo), and Hindu community (Swami Bhavesha Nand from Ramkrishna



Mission and BK Indu Sabu from Brahma Kumaris). They gathered to celebrate the Christmas Milan Samaroh. Each speaker emphasized the importance of coming together to promote peace and harmony among people of all religions. The Sisters from Daughters of St. Anne performed three beautiful Christmas carols, while the SIGN staff brought the nativity scene of Jesus to life. The program began with a group Christmas song by the SIGN team, followed by Bible reading from Luke 4:18-19 by Fr. Ranjana DSA, and a prayer by Fr. Bipin. Professor Hervinder Veer Singh served as the Master of Ceremony. Fr. Bipin extended a warm welcome to the guest speakers and attendees, and highlighted the purpose of the gathering. He reflected on the fact that while the holy scriptures of all religions teach us the virtues of peace, love, unity, and justice, these ideals are often lost in practice. This is why the Sadbhavna Group was created—to promote justice, peace, love, and unity. He stressed that we are united not by religion but by our shared humanity, and that celebrating festivals of different faiths is an opportunity to promote these values. As the program progressed, Santa Claus made a special appearance, distributing gifts to all the guest speakers. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Sr. Leen, SCN, followed by a group photo session. Participants exchanged Christmas greetings and shared hopes that 2025 would be a year of peace, justice, and prosperity. Everyone enjoyed snacks together and expressed their desire for such gatherings to be organized regularly.



ACT OF MERCY: On December 20th, the staff of SIGN had the privilege of celebrating Christmas



with the families of 10 visually challenged individuals from Khad Garha. The guests were warmly welcomed to the Social Development Centre (SDC), where they shared a festive meal with the SIGN staff, marking a special moment of togetherness and joy.

The celebration began with a heartfelt Christmas song, followed by a Bible reading from St. Luke 4:18-19. Fr. Bipin then led a reflection and prayer, emphasizing that Jesus

came to restore sight to the blind and provide sustenance to the hungry. He reminded everyone that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, who is deeply concerned for each one of us. Fr. Bipin also spoke of how Jesus, having experienced loneliness, rejection, and the harsh realities of poverty, understands our struggles and is a compassionate presence in our lives.

Two of the invited visually challenged individuals were then called forward to cut the Christmas cake, symbolizing the unity and joy of the occasion. Following this, the SIGN staff served a delicious meal to each guest. After the meal Mr. George Surin, one of the Visually Challenged individual sang a Christmas Song and Mr. Baleshwar Lakra, another Visually Challenged



individual played the Mandar (Tribal Drum). Then each invited beneficiary received a blanket and supply of a week's rations to help them through the winter months. The celebration concluded with a photo session, capturing the

warmth and spirit of the gathering. This heartfelt Christmas event reminded everyone of the power of compassion, solidarity, and the true meaning of the season. After the event, the invited guests were safely transported back to their homes in SIGN's vehicle. A special thanks to the SDC Administration for generously providing the space to make this Christmas gathering with these important members of society truly memorable.