

NEWSLETTER JULY 2024

One-day workshop on Tribal Philosophy and Gram Sabha: In the rush towards modern development, discussion of tribal heritage or tribal philosophy are often dismissed as outdated. However, as the planet getting warmer and warmer every day in and every day out and people suffering from extreme heat, polluted air and contaminated water, present day intellectuals and scientists worldwide are turning their attention to the profound insights of tribal philosophy, value system and ways of leading life.



Against this background, SIGN has taken the challenge of revisiting Tribal Philosophy, tribal customs, traditional practices, tribal value system and tribal self-governance system. During the month SIGN organized 117 workshops on Tribal Philosophy and Traditional Self-Governance system in 117 villages of Seven Districts viz. Ranchi, Lohardaga, Gumla, Simdega, Latehar and Garwah in Jharkhand. In the

workshop SIGN discussed the components of tribal philosophy viz. a) **Co-existence** with the nature, b) **Communitarian Living**, c) **Equality** living d) **Autonomy** e) **(Self) Governance system** f) **Self-reliance**, g) **Mutual Support**, h) **Honesty**, i) **Self-Respect** j) **Fearlessness** and k) **Respecting the rights of others**. While discussing about

Traditional Self-Governance system, it was said that it is need of the hour that every tribal should know that the traditional Self-governance system i.e., Gram Sabha is the best



system to bring peace in the community. It also unites and brings a sense of belongingness in the community. Because the traditional Self-Governance system runs according to collective thinking. The post of village head is hereditary, but if the village head is not qualified, that is, he is drunkard, a lunatic, a criminal, a mental patient, he can be removed. Youth are unaware of all these and so it is an eye opening of them. These workshops are quite beneficial for them and whole of villagers at large. Through

this Project, people have started understanding the greatness of tribal philosophy and importance of traditional Self-Governance system.

Annual General Body Meeting and Governing Board Meeting: Month of July is



special for SIGN. This is the time of the year, when all the General Body Members gather at Ranchi and have the General Body meeting. This year, on 22nd July, SIGN had its General

Body meeting at the Conference Hall of Social Development Centre at 4 pm. It was the first meeting for the President Archbishop Vincent Aind, so also Bishop Theodore, SFX,

as the full-fledged Bishop of Daltonganj Diocese and Bishop Linus Pingal Ekka, as the third Bishop of Gumla were taking part in the General Body meeting. All three of them welcomed and felicitated by the members. During the General Body meeting Annual Activity Report and Audited Report were presented. In the Activity



Report, it was mentioned that towards the end of the year, all the staff of SIGN went to spend a day with mentally disturbed inmates of Prem Mitra Sadan at Jwahr Nagar Kanke. Secretary informed that SIGN distributed blankets to 11 inmates and had meals with them. However, most important part of General Body meeting was to appointment of the Auditor for the year 2024-2025. All the members unanimously agreed to continue with the NRV & Associates, an Audit Firm from Dumka led by Rajesh Singh Himmatsighka as the Auditor for the Year 2024-2025. On the following day i.e., on 23rd



July, SIGN had its Governing Board Meeting, where except Bishop Telesphore all the members were present. During the meeting, minutes of the last meeting was passed. The highlight of

the Annual Activity Report undertaking the establishing Safeguarding Policy for SIGN and orienting the partners of SIGN about Safeguarding. At the same time secretary said that during the year, SIGN initiated “Awakening Tribal Soul” project to preserve, protect and promote tribal Philosophy and tribal heritage. During the meeting, secretary said that migration is a big concern and so each diocese needs to appoint one in-charge for commission for migrants. Thanking every body meeting was over.