Commemorating Bhagwan Birsa Munda and celebrating the contributions, courage and heritage of tribal communities

## REPORT ON PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

# CELEBRATIONS 2026

# JAN JATIYA GAURAV DIWAS

**1st November To 15th November 2026**

Organised by

KIRTADS

**(KERALAM INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES)**

**TRIBAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (TRI), KERALAM**

## JAN JATIYA GURAV DIWAS CELEBRATIONS 2026

The Keralam Institute for Research, Training and Development Studies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (KIRTADS) (TRI), Keralam, organised a series of programmes as part of the **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Celebrations 2026**, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the legendary tribal freedom fighter, who is a symbol of tribal pride, courage and resistance against the colonial authorities. The programmes were organised with the objective of highlighting the invaluable contributions of tribal communities to Indian society and to the freedom struggle, promoting tribal leadership, creating awareness among youths about tribal freedom fighters, and recognising the achievements and contributions of the tribal people.

The major programmes conducted by TRI Keralam as part of the celebrations are detailed below.

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| **1.** | **Quiz Competition on Tribal Freedom Fighters of India among the Higher Secondary Schools and Model Residential Schools Students of Palakkad and Wayanad Districts** |
| **Date :** | **03/11/2026** |
| **Venue:** | **GMRGHSS Knaiyambatta and Govt. HSS, Panamaram, Wayanad** |

The Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Keralam, organised a quiz competition on the topic “Tribal People ,Tribal Movements and Tribal Freedom Fighters of India” on 3rdNovember 2026 as part of the observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, commemorating the birth anniversary of the great tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The programme was organised for students of Government Higher Secondary School and Government Model Residential Girls Higher Secondary School(GMRGHSS) in Wayanad district of Keralam. The main objective of the programme was to create awareness among students

about the significant contributions and sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters in India's struggle for independence. The initiative also aimed to familiarise the younger generation with the lives, struggles and heroic contributions of tribal leaders who played a vital role in resisting colonial rule and safeguarding their land, culture and identity.

**Achievement of Objectives / Outcomes of the Programme**

1. Creating Awareness among Students: The programme created awareness among students about the significant contributions of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle. Through the quiz competition, students gained knowledge about the role played by various tribal communities in resisting colonial rule and protecting their land, culture and rights.
2. Familiarising Students with Tribal Freedom Fighters: The competition provided an opportunity for students to learn about the lives, struggles and contributions of prominent tribal freedom fighters such as Birsa Munda, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Rani Gaidinliu, Tilka Manjhi and other lesser-known tribal leaders who played important roles in the freedom movement.
3. Highlighting the Contributions of Tribal Freedom Fighters: The programme highlighted the historical significance of tribal resistance movements and the contributions of tribal leaders to India's independence. It also helped bring attention to the contributions of lesser-known tribal freedom fighters, thereby promoting respect and recognition for their role in the nation's history.

The programme commenced with an introductory address by Deepa, Lecturer, KIRTADS, who highlighted the contributions of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle. She spoke about the life, struggles and revolutionary contributions of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and emphasised his role in the tribal resistance against British colonial rule. She also explained the significance of

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, observedin honour of the contributions and sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters and to recognise the rich heritage, history and cultural identity of tribal communities in India.

The quiz competition was conducted in two sessions at two educational institutions in Wayanad district. The first session was held at Government Model Residential Girls Higher Secondary School (GMRGHSS), Kaniyambatta, Wayanad, in which approximately 100 Higher Secondary School students participated. Srinanda S.K. and Niveditha V. secured the First Prize, followed by Ananya P.B. and Anamika Prasad, who won the Second Prize. The Third Prize was awarded to Arya C.B. and Sivatharuni. The second session was conducted in the afternoon at Government Higher Secondary School, Panamaram, with around 34 students were participated. The quiz competition concluded with the announcement of the winners. Muhammad Ashifan and Aswin Joshi secured the First Prize, followed by Christina and Padmatheertha, who won the Second Prize. The Third Prize was awarded to Amrin, Fazin, Dani and Shijo.

During the concluding sessions, the respective Principals of the schools distributed mementos, cash prizes and certificates to the winners in recognition of their achievements and performance. The distribution of prizes encouraged the students and appreciated their active participation in the competition. Approximately 134 students participated in the quiz competition conducted at the two institutions. The programme was successfully organised by TRI Keralam as part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrations, highlighting the invaluable contributions of tribal freedom fighters to India's independence movement. The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to creating awareness among the younger generation about the sacrifices of tribal heroes and preserving their historical legacy for future generations.

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| **Images** | https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1anwfeooiMh8Bw9mSc3r0w-ozC-k7H9iL?usp=drive_link |
| **2.** | **Quiz Competition on 'Tribal People, Tribal Movements and Tribal Freedom Fighters of India' among the Higher Secondary School Students of Palakkad District of Keralam.** |
| **Date :** | **11/11/2026** |
| **Venue:** | **GHSS Agali and Govt. Model Residential School Attappadi, Palakkad.** |

The Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Keralam, organised a quiz competition on the topic "Tribal People ,Tribal Movements and Tribal Freedom Fighters of India" on 11th November 2026 as part of the observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, commemorating the birth anniversary of the great tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The programme was organised for students of Government Higher Secondary School Agali and Government Model Residential Higher Secondary School in Attapadi, Palakkad district of Keralam.

The main objective of the programme was to create awareness among students about the significant contributions and sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters in India's struggle for independence. The initiative also aimed to familiarise the younger generation with the lives, struggles and heroic contributions of tribal leaders who played a vital role in resisting colonial rule and safeguarding their land, culture and identity.

**Outcomes of the Programme:**

1. Creating Awareness among Students: The programme created awareness among students about the significant contributions of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle. Through the quiz competition, students gained knowledge about the role played by various tribal communities in resisting colonial rule and protecting their land, culture and rights.
2. Familiarising Students with Tribal Freedom Fighters: The competition

provided an opportunity for students to learn about the lives, struggles and contributions of prominent tribal freedom fighters such as Birsa Munda, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Rani Gaidinliu, Tilka Manjhi and other lesser-known tribal leaders who played important roles in the freedom movement.

3. Highlighting the Contributions of Tribal Freedom Fighters: The programme highlighted the historical significance of tribal resistance movements and the contributions of tribal leaders to India's independence. It also helped bring attention to the contributions of lesser-known tribal freedom fighters, thereby promoting respect and recognition for their role in the nation's history.

The programme commenced with an introductory address by Deepa, Lecturer, KIRTADS, who highlighted the contributions of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle. She spoke about the life, struggles and revolutionary contributions of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and emphasised his role in the tribal resistance against British colonial rule. She also explained the significance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, observed in honour of the contributions and sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters and to recognise the rich heritage, history and cultural identity of tribal communities in India.

The quiz competition was conducted in two sessions at two Educational institutions in Palakad district. The first session was held at Government Model Residential Girls Higher Secondary School Attapadi Palakkad, in which 32 Higher Secondary School students participated. Yashika M and Swathi S secured the First Prize, followed by Pavithra R P. and Vismaya R who won the Second Prize. The Third Prize was awarded to Archana R and Anupriya R.

The second session was conducted in the afternoon at Government Higher Secondary School, Agali, with 49 students as participants. The quiz competition concluded with the announcement of the winners. Avanthika S and Animol

S secured the First Prize, followed by Nadhasha Jabazee S and Nirosha A who won the Second Prize. The Third Prize was awarded to Seenandhana Krishna M and Niranjana Nitheesh.

During the concluding sessions, the respective Principals of the Schools distributed mementos, cash prizes and certificates to the winners in recognition of their achievements and performance. The distribution of prizes encouraged the students and appreciated their active participation in the competition. A total of 81 students participated in the quiz competition conducted at the two institutions. The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to creating awareness among the younger generation about the sacrifices of tribal heroes and preserving their historical legacy for future generations.

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| **3.** | **Unsung Heroes Award 2026 –Honouring Tribal Achievers** |
| **Date :** | 15.11.2026 |
| **Venue:** | KIRTADS Campus |

The Birsa Munda Unsung Heroes Awards 2026, instituted to recognise and honour individuals, who have made significant contributions to the welfare, empowerment and socio-cultural advancement of tribal communities, were presented at a function held at the KIRTADS campus, Chevayur, Kozhikode, on November 15.The awards have been instituted in memory of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the legendary tribal freedom fighter, who made remarkable contributions to India's freedom struggle. The initiative aims to identify and honour individuals from tribal communities whose contributions to society, cultural preservation and social development have not received adequate recognition. It seeks to bring their invaluable services and achievements to wider public attention. Individuals who have made notable contributions in

areas such as social empowerment, education, art, literature, culture, traditional knowledge, social service and the protection of tribal rights were considered for the awards. The initiative also seeks to encourage the preservation of tribal history and heritage and to familiarise younger generations with the contributions of remarkable personalities from tribal communities

**Award Ceremony**

Dr. Pradeep Kumar K.S., Deputy Director, Training Wing, KIRTADS, welcomed the gathering. Dr. S. Bindu, Director, KIRTADS, presided over the function. Sri Pramod P., Assistant Commissioner of Police, Kozhikode Medical College Subdivision, inaugurated the programme. Dr. Bindu P. Varghese, Chief, Social Service Division, State Planning Board, attended as the Special Guest. Sandhya Sekhar, Deputy Director, Development Studies, KIRTADS, and Sri Ratheesh Kattumadam, Ward Member of Pulloor Periya Panchayat offered felicitations. Deepa S., Lecturer, KIRTADS, proposed the vote of thanks.

The awardees were Sukumaran Chaligda, Ramachandran Kandamala, Velayudhan P.V., O.K. Prabhakaran, Dr. Nidhish Kumar, Balan M.A., Lijina Kadumeni, Pradeep Gurukkal , Ashokan Kani M., Bindu M., Chembankode Manikandan, V.P. Aithappa, Murugeshan S.V. and Anish P. Soman. in recognition of their contributions. The initiative is expected to provide wider recognition to the achievements of unsung personalities from tribal communities and inspire future generations to appreciate and preserve their rich cultural heritage and contributions to society. The selected 15 awardees were honoured with mementos, 10000 Cash Prize and certificates of appreciation in recognition of their outstanding achievements and services to tribal society. The recognition was intended not only to appreciate their individual accomplishments but also to highlight the importance of their contributions to the preservation of Keralam's rich tribal heritage and the overall development of tribal communities.

The Unsung Heroes Award 2026 served as an important initiative to recognise

the knowledge, skills, creativity and leadership existing within tribal communities. By honouring individuals from diverse fields, the programme provided a platform to acknowledge the contributions of tribal achievers and highlight their role in preserving indigenous knowledge and cultural traditions.

The initiative also reflected the commitment of the Tribal Research Institute, Keralam, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs towards recognising tribal excellence, promoting cultural identity and encouraging community-led development.

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| **4.** | **Three-Days Leadership Training Programme for Executive Members of Women's Collectives of Keralam Mahila Samakhya Society** |
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| **Date :** | 5–7 November 2026 |
| **Venue:** | KIRTADS (TRI), Keralam |

**Introduction**

As part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Celebrations, the Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Keralam, organised a three-day leadership training programme for the executive members of women's collectives functioning under the Keralam Mahila Samakhya Society from 5$^{th}$to 7$^{th}$ November 2026. The programme was designed to strengthen the leadership capabilities, organisational skills, awareness of legal rights, and administrative knowledge of women leaders belonging to tribal communities.

The training aimed to empower the executive members to function effectively at the grassroots level by equipping them with knowledge and practical skills in leadership, communication, health awareness, legal protection, education, financial management, and gender-related issues. It also provided an opportunity for participants to share their experiences, discuss common challenges, and develop collective strategies for strengthening women's groups.

Inaugural Session

The programme commenced with a session introducing the activities of the Tribal Research Institute and explaining the objectives and expected outcomes of the training programme.

The program was formally inaugurated by the Director, KIRTADS. The Deputy Director, KIRTADS, the State Consultant of Mahila Samakhya Society, and the Finance Officer also addressed the gathering and offered felicitations to the inauguration. Their remarks highlighted the importance of strengthening women's collectives, need to develop leadership among tribal women, and ensuring their active participation in community development initiatives.

The inaugural session emphasised the significance of capacity-building programmes in enabling women leaders to understand their rights, responsibilities, and roles in promoting social development and collective empowerment.

**Day 1 – 5th November 2026**

The first day's sessions focused on leadership development, communication, organisational skills, women's health, and the cultural background of tribal communities.

The initial technical session was handled by Shri Ajith Menon, Faculty, Institute of Management in Government (IMG). The session focused on ice-breaking activities, development of communication skills, organisational abilities, and leadership skills. Through interactive activities and discussions, participants were encouraged to improve their confidence, interpersonal relationships, teamwork, and decision-making abilities.

The afternoon session was handled by Dr. Khadeeja Mumthas, Professor (Retd.), Medical College, Kozhikode. The session dealt with reproductive

health among women and general healthcare. It provided an opportunity for participants to understand the importance of women's health, reproductive health awareness, and preventive healthcare practices.

The final session of the day was handled by Deepa S, Lecturer, KIRTADS, on the cultural and historical background of Scheduled Tribes and development approaches. The session highlighted the cultural identity, historical experiences, traditional knowledge, and socio-economic background of tribal communities. It also discussed the importance of adopting development approaches that respect tribal culture, traditions, and community-specific needs.

**Day 2 - 6th November 2026**

The second day began with the presentation of reports by the group leaders, providing an opportunity to review the previous day's learning and share the experiences of participants.

The first technical session focused on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The session was handled by Bineesh, Assistant Professor, Government Law College, Kozhikode. The discussion covered the legal safeguards available to Scheduled Tribes, the importance of understanding the provisions of the Act, and the mechanisms available for addressing atrocities and discrimination against tribal communities.

The subsequent session was handled by Advocate Preetha K.K. on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The session highlighted the legal provisions for protecting children from sexual offences and safeguarding women against domestic violence. It also familiarised participants with the importance of legal awareness, reporting mechanisms, and available protection measures.

The afternoon session was handled by Dr. Pradeep Kumar K.S., Deputy Director (Training Division), KIRTADS, on the Right to Education Act and the role of education in the development of tribal communities. The session emphasised the importance of education in improving the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities and discussed the role of women leaders in encouraging school enrolment, preventing school dropouts, and promoting educational opportunities among tribal children.

The next session was handled by Smt. Ramadevi, Associate Project Director, Keralam Mahila Samakhya Society. The session focused on the preparation and maintenance of accounting registers and organisational records of women's collectives. Participants were familiarised with the importance of maintaining proper financial records, registers, accounts, and other organisational documents to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective functioning of their collectives.A cultural programme was also organised in the evening, providing an opportunity for participants to showcase their talents, cultural expressions, and collective spirit.

**Day 3 - 7th November 2026**

The third day commenced with the presentation of reports by the group leaders, followed by sessions focusing on caste and gender issues, domestic violence, and legal assistance.

The first session was handled by Dr. Praveena K. Prabhakaran, Assistant Professor, Gender Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University. The session focused on the relationship between caste and gender and examined the multiple forms of discrimination and inequalities experienced by women, particularly those belonging to marginalised communities.The discussion highlighted the importance of understanding gender-based discrimination and promoting equality, dignity, and social justice.

The next session was handled by Adv. Seenathu on the procedures under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and the legal assistance available to women. The session provided insights into the procedures for seeking protection and the support mechanisms available to women facing domestic violence. It also emphasised the role of women's collectives in identifying cases, supporting affected women, and facilitating access to appropriate legal assistance.

Valedictory Session and Study Visit

The training programme concluded with a camp review and valedictory session. The sessions provided an opportunity to review the major themes discussed during the three days and reflect on the learning experiences of the participants.

A photo session was organised following the concluding session. As part of the programme, a study visit was also scheduled from 2.00 PM to 7.00 PM, providing an opportunity for experiential learning and exposure.

Major Outcomes of the Programme

The three-day training programme focused on strengthening the capacities of executive members of women's collectives in the following areas:

1. Leadership and Organisational Development: Improved understanding of leadership qualities, communication, teamwork, and organisational skills.
2. Health Awareness: Enhanced awareness of reproductive health and general healthcare among women.
3. Cultural Awareness: Better understanding of the cultural and historical background of tribal communities and the importance of culturally appropriate development approaches.
4. Legal Awareness: Familiarisation with important legal safeguards, including the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, POCSO Act, and Domestic Violence Act.
5. Educational Empowerment: Understanding the importance of education

in tribal development and the role of women leaders in promoting education among tribal children.

6. Financial and Administrative Management: Improved knowledge of maintaining accounting registers, financial records, and organisational documents.
7. Gender Equality and Social Justice: Greater understanding of caste-based and gender-based discrimination and the importance of protecting women's rights.

**Conclusion**

The three-days leadership training programme provided a valuable platform for strengthening the leadership, organisational, legal, and administrative capacities of executive members of women's collectives under the Keralam Mahila Samakhya Society. The programme addressed important issues concerning tribal women's empowerment, health, education, legal protection, gender equality, and institutional management.

By combining expert-led sessions, interactive discussions, group activities, and a study visit, the programme sought to equip women leaders with the knowledge and skills required to function more effectively within their communities. Such capacity-building initiatives play an important role in strengthening women's collectives, promoting grassroots leadership, and ensuring the active participation of tribal women in community development and decision-making processes.

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| **5.** | **Floral Tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda and Tribal Freedom Fighters of Keralam** |
| **Date :** | 15.11.2026 |
| **Venue:** | KIRTADS Campus |

As part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Celebrations, KIRTADS organised a floral tribute to honour Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the great tribal freedom fighters of Keralam, commemorating their courage, sacrifices and invaluable contributions to India's freedom struggle.

The tribute paid homage to Thalakkara Chandu, Kallalan Vaidhyar, Sadanandan Kani, Lakshmanan Kani and Raman Madathil, whose contributions and struggles remain an important part of Keralam's tribal history. The programme served as an occasion to remember their valiant efforts and recognise the role played by tribal communities in the freedom movement.

The function was attended by Sri Pramod P., Assistant Commissioner of Police, Kozhikode Medical College Sub-Division, and Dr. Bindu P. Varghese, Chief, Social Service Division, Keralam State Planning Board, as Special Invitees. The Director of KIRTADS, Deputy Directors, Members from tribal communities and other staff members actively participated in the programme and paid floral homage to the revered freedom fighters.

The event reflected KIRTADS' commitment to preserve the historical legacy of tribal communities and bringing greater recognition to the contributions of tribal freedom fighters. It also reaffirmed the importance of remembering and passing on their stories of courage, resistance and sacrifice to future generations.

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| **Images** | https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lrvEv5_EC846oJknsdfLDwruNYN2XM21?usp=sharing |

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| **6.** | **THE ONE-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR "Unsung Heroes: Remembering India's Tribal Freedom Fighters"** |
| **Date :** | 9th November 2026 |
| **Venue:** | KIRTADS Campus, Chevayur, Kozhikode – 673017 |

The Keralam Institute for Research, Training and Development Studies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (KIRTADS), Kozhikode, organised a

One-Day National Seminar on “Unsung Heroes: Remembering India’s Tribal Freedom Fighters” on 9 November 2026 at the KIRTADS Campus, Chevayur, Kozhikode. The seminar aimed to highlight the contributions of tribal communities and their leaders to India's freedom struggle, with particular emphasis on the participation of tribal women, indigenous resistance movements and the role of language in shaping historical narratives.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Sri Pradeep Kumar K.S., Deputy Director, KIRTADS. Dr S. Bindu, Director, KIRTADS, delivered the presidential address, and Adv. K. Jayanth, Hon’ble MLA, Kozhikode North Constituency, formally inaugurated the seminar. Sri Suresh Babu L., Assistant Commissioner, Kozhikode City Control, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. He is the son of Lakshmanan, a freedom fighter belonging to the Kani tribal community. His presence highlighted the continuing legacy of tribal participation in India's freedom movement.

As part of the inaugural session, prizes were distributed to the winners of the drawing competition organised in connection with Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations. Sri Bidhun Babu of Wayanad received the first prize, while Sri Ratheesh Benny of Idukki secured the second prize. The programme was felicitated by Sri Polson Lasa, Tribal Development Officer, Kozhikode; Sri Balan Nanmanda, Unsung Hero Award winner, writer and social activist; Sri Rajan Chengode; Sri Safarulla S., Administrative Officer, KIRTADS; Sri Ramesh G., Finance Officer, KIRTADS; Sri Subhash V.S., Deputy Director, Vigilance Wing; and Smt Sandhya Sekhar T., Deputy Director, Development Studies Wing. Dr Indu Menon, Lecturer, KIRTADS, proposed the vote of thanks.

Following the inaugural session, the academic and technical sessions commenced with research paper presentations addressing various dimensions of tribal participation in India's freedom struggle.

The keynote address, titled “Beyond the Margins: Tribal Resistance and Anti-colonial Struggles in India,” was delivered by Dr Joseph Skaria, Professor, Department of Malayalam and Keralam Studies, University of Calicut. The address highlighted the historical significance of tribal resistance movements and emphasised the need to bring marginalised indigenous histories into mainstream historical discourse.

Sri Sarath Babu, Research Scholar, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Madhya Pradesh, presented a paper titled “Epistemological Inquiry of Adivasi Freedom Struggles: A Remarkable Contribution of Women Fighters in Central India.” The paper examined the historical and epistemological dimensions of Adivasi resistance, with particular emphasis on the contributions of women freedom fighters in Central India. Smt Anju K.S., Sociologist, Forest Department, SulthanBathery, presented “The Unsung Warriors: Tribal Women and Non-violent Resistance Against Colonial Rule,” highlights the significant yet often underrepresented role of tribal women in anti-colonial movements. Dr Lijisha A.T., Research Assistant, KIRTADS, presented a paper titled “Language and Power: A Linguistic Analysis of Colonial Terminology and Euphemism in the Indian Freedom Struggle.” The presentation examined how colonial terminology and linguistic representations influenced the interpretation and documentation of India's freedom struggle, drawing attention to the role of language in constructing historical narratives.

In the afternoon, an invited lecture was organised on the theme “Beyond Colonial Archives: Oral History and Unsung Martyrs of the Anti-colonial Revolt (1796–1806).” The session focused on the importance of oral narratives, community memories and indigenous historical accounts in reconstructing the histories of resistance movements that remain inadequately represented in conventional colonial archives. It also highlighted the relevance of oral history as an important resource for documenting the contributions and sacrifices of

lesser-known freedom fighters.

A panel discussion was subsequently organised on the theme “Tribal People, Tribal Freedom Fights and Fighters,” chaired by Dr Abdul Razakh. The panel comprised Smt Narayani K., social activist and former ward member from Kasaragod; Sri Ratheesh Olakara, community leader; Sri Arun Sebastian, writer; Dr K.P. Nitheesh Kumar, Administrative Officer, Aralam Farm Ltd., Kannur; Sri Subhash V.S., Deputy Director, KIRTADS; and Smt Sandhya Sekhar T., Deputy Director, KIRTADS. The discussion explored the contributions of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle, the historical significance of indigenous resistance movements and the role of tribal leaders and communities in challenging colonial rule. The panellists also highlighted the importance of documenting lesser-known freedom fighters and preserving tribal histories, oral traditions and community narratives for future generations.

The seminar concluded with a valedictory session. Sri Pradeep Kumar K.S. delivered the welcome address, and Dr S. Bindu, Director, KIRTADS, inaugurated the session. Sri Safarulla S., Administrative Officer, KIRTADS, presided over the function. Smt Ranjitha offered felicitations, while Sri Suresh K.P. presented a poem as part of the programme. Sri Ramesh G., Finance Officer, KIRTADS, proposed the vote of thanks.

**Major Themes and Issues Highlighted in the Conference.**

1. Recognition of tribal contributions: The seminar foregrounded the role of tribal communities and leaders in India’s freedom struggle and the importance of integrating these histories into wider historical narratives.
2. Tribal women and resistance: The presentations highlighted women’s participation in anti-colonial struggles, including forms of non-violent resistance that are often underrepresented in historical documentation.
3. Indigenous perspectives on history: Discussions encouraged attention to the ways in which Adivasi communities understand, remember and

narrate their own histories.

4. Language and historical representation: The analysis of colonial terminology and euphemism drew attention to the influence of language and power in recording and interpreting historical events.
5. Oral history and community memory: The invited lecture and panel discussion emphasised oral narratives as valuable sources for documenting lesser-known freedom fighters and resistance movements.

The One-Day National Seminar provided an academic and cultural platform for researchers, academicians, government officials, writers, social activists and community representatives to deliberate on the historical contributions of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle. The seminar witnessed the participation of 41 tribal community members, 23 college students and 15 invited guests, reflecting the active involvement of diverse sections of society. The sessions highlighted the importance of recognising the participation of tribal women, documenting indigenous resistance movements, preserving oral histories and critically examining colonial representations of tribal communities. The seminar also emphasised the need for sustained research and documentation to ensure that the histories, struggles and sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters receive due recognition in the broader narrative of India's national movement. The programme thus contributed to strengthening awareness of the historical legacy of tribal freedom fighters and the importance of preserving their contributions for future generations.

**Outcome of the Programme**

The seminar generated academic discussion and awareness around the historical contributions of tribal communities to India’s freedom struggle.

1. The seminar provided a platform to discuss tribal freedom fighters and indigenous resistance movements that are not always adequately

represented or lack complete representation in mainstream / Non indigenous historical accounts.

2. Greater attention to women's contributions: Presentation brought the role of tribal women in anti-colonial resistance into focus.
3. Recognition of oral history as a research resource: The invited lecture and panel discussion helped to highlight the importance of oral narratives and community memories in reconstructing histories that may be insufficiently represented in colonial archives.
4. Critical engagement with colonial narratives: The linguistic analysis encouraged participants to consider how terminology and forms of representation influence historical interpretation and helped them to unearth and use the same lens in everyday life .
5. Interdisciplinary academic exchange: Contributions from researchers, officials, activists and community representatives enabled the subject to be examined through multiple perspectives.
6. Community and student engagement: Participation by tribal community members and college students helped connect academic discussion with wider public awareness.
7. Emphasis on sustained documentation: The deliberations highlighted the importance of continued research and systematic documentation to preserve the histories, struggles and sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters.

**Achievements of the Programme**

1. Successfully organised a one-day national-level academic seminar at the KIRTADS Campus on a theme of historical and social significance.
2. Brought together a diverse group of 79 participants across the recorded categories of tribal community members, college students and invited guests.
3. Facilitated research presentations on Adivasi freedom struggles, tribal

women's resistance and the relationship between language, power and historical narratives.

4. Included a keynote address that situated tribal resistance and anti-colonial struggles within the broader historical discourse.
5. Provided a dedicated platform for discussing oral history and community memory as resources for recovering lesser-known histories.
6. Enabled a multi-stakeholder panel discussion involving community representatives, a social activist, a writer and institutional representatives.

**Recommendations**

The following are suggested follow-up measures

1. Encourage focused research on the role of tribal women in the larger context of anti-colonial movements and document their contributions from gender-sensitive perspectives.

2. Develop accessible educational and awareness materials for students and the wider public based on verified historical records and community narratives.

3. Build academic collaborations with universities, research institutions, historians and community organisations for continued study of tribal freedom movements.

4. Promote the responsible use of indigenous languages, oral traditions and community sources in research and public dissemination.

**Conclusion**

The seminar reaffirmed that the history of India's freedom struggle is enriched by the resistance, courage and sacrifices of tribal communities across the country. By creating space for academic inquiry and community perspectives, the programme drew attention to the need to recognise tribal freedom fighters,

acknowledge the contributions of tribal women, critically examine colonial representations and preserve oral histories and indigenous memories.

The programme concluded with an emphasis on the continuing responsibility of research institutions and other stakeholders to document and disseminate these histories. The seminar thus served as a meaningful step towards ensuring that the contributions of tribal communities are more fully recognised and carried forward for the benefit of future generations.

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| **Images** | https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ABjce5L1qYaQsa9Ub5dGhuP8XrxNwrcX?usp=drive_link |

| **7.** | **Coffee Table Book on 'Tribal Freedom Fighters of India'** |
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| **Date :** | 15.11.2026 |
| **Venue:** | KIRTADS Campus |

Many tribal freedom movements were remain unnoticed in the historical records as well as in the collective social memory as such movements were happened in interior forest terrains and the colonial authorities of that time were not ready to record them properly. Thus, there is a dire need to properly document and popularize the great freedom movements fought by the tribal ancestors of our country in order to acknowledge and appreciate their sacrifice and contributions to the nation's freedom struggle and to the society at large.

It is a profound truth that mainstream historical narratives have frequently overlooked the foundational role of indigenous Scheduled Tribe communities in the struggle for Indian Independence. The resistance movements led by the Tribal Freedom Fighters of Keralamm represents some of the earliest, most fierce, and uncompromising chapters of anti- colonial defiance in Indian history. Long before national movements gained widespread momentum, the tribal communities of Keralam were actively resisting British encroachment to defend their sovereignty, culture and habitats. The tribal freedom fighters of Keralam

didn't just fight for political freedom rather they fought for ancestral rights over Water, Forest and Land. The book Tribal Freedom Fighters of India primarily intents to popularize the great accounts of valor, invaluable contributions and sacrifices of the Tribal Freedom Fighters of Karalam, and other prominent tribal freedom fighters of the country.

| 8. | **Three days Training Programme Contributions of Tribal Communities to Indian Society, Particularly to the Freedom Struggle and on Protection of the Environment**. |
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| **Date :** | **11th to 13th November 2026** |
| **Venue:** | KIRTADS Campus |

As part of the Jan Jatiya Gaurav Divas celebrations, a three day training programme was organized by KIRTADS during 11th to 13th November 2026 at its Campus at Chevayur, Kohikode, Keralam, on the topic "Contributions of tribal communities to Indian Society, particularly to the freedom struggle and on protection of the Environment". The training programme was inaugurated at 10.00 AM by the Director, Dr.S Bindu, with a Presidential Address by Sri.Safarulla, Senior Administrative Officer of the Institute. Training Wing Deputy Director Dr.K.S. Pradeepkumar welcomed the gathering. Development Studies Wing Deputy Director Smt. Sandhya Sekhar , Sri.Kunjambu from Kasargod, Sri. Chembamcode Manikandan from Thiruvananthapuram and Smt. Mallikamooppathy from Attappady offered facilitations to the program. Training Wing Lecture Smt.Nina.v delivered the vote of thanks

**Inaugural Session**

A total of 26 tribal people from the districts of Kasargod, Kannoor, Wayanad, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Idukki and Thiruvananthapuram participated in the program. They belong to various tribal communities, which includes Mavilan, Malavettuvan, Karimpalan, Wayanadkadar, Kurichiyar, Paniyan, Kattunayakan,Mannan and Kanikkar communities from northern most

Kasaragod district to southern most Thiruvananthapuram district.

**First Day Sessions**

Following the inaugural session, H.R.A Trainer Sri.Ajith Menon conducted a session on "Knowledge exchange and Organizational Skill Development". This session was successful in creating enthusiasm and motivation among the trainees. Then two sessions were organised on the topics "Tribal Freedom Struggles: History and Contemporary Perspectives" and "Environmental Aspects of Tribal Struggles."

The first lecture was delivered by historian Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Razak on the topic "Tribal Freedom Struggles: History and Contemporary Perspectives." He explained the methodology of documenting the history of indigenous communities and the different sources used in historical writing. He discussed the role of oral history, indigenous revolts and European records in writing history, along with the important aspects to be considered while analysing these sources. He also pointed out the limitations of depending only on official historical documents and the possibility of incorrect interpretations.

He further explained the historical knowledge preserved through folk songs, folk tales and oral traditions, and how they reflect the resistance movements and life experiences of indigenous communities. He highlighted that these sources are useful in reconstructing the history of communities that have not received sufficient representation in official historical records. As examples of historical resistance movements in Kerala, he mentioned the Pazhassi Rebellion and slogans raised against the British, particularly the slogan "Drive away the people wearing round hats." He also discussed how regional language variations influence the transmission and interpretation of historical information.

The lecture also covered the contributions of Renaissance leaders such as Poykayil Yohannan (PoykayilAppachan), their struggles against caste and

Varna domination, and movements for social justice. The importance of the struggles led by Ayyankali for land and social rights was also explained. Through these discussions, the need to understand the history of indigenous and oppressed communities within their social and political contexts was highlighted.

The second lecture was conducted from 3:45 PM to 5:15 PM by Dr. Shumais, Assistant Professor of the Department of History, Farook College. He delivered a lecture on the environmental aspects of tribal struggles. He explained that the lifestyles, occupations, culture and social relationships of tribal communities are closely connected with nature. He also discussed the importance of forest resources, land, agriculture and trade in the economic and social lives of tribal people.

He explained the economic relationships developed through the production, exchange and trade of agricultural products such as pepper and traditional textiles. He also discussed how changes in trade practices influenced the lives of indigenous communities and their use of natural resources. The arrival of the British East India Company and the changes it brought to the traditional lifestyle of tribal communities and their relationship with land were important topics of discussion.

He further explained how new taxation systems, control over land, exploitation of resources and British administrative policies affected the livelihoods of indigenous people. The influence of traditional social institutions, including temples, and the changes that occurred in the social system were also discussed.

The lecture also highlighted the unique geographical features, forest wealth and natural resources of Wayanad and their connection with the interests of the British administration. He explained how the administrative and

economic policies introduced to control these resources affected tribal communities. The environmental and political resistance movements organised by tribal communities against such policies were also discussed, particularly their struggles to protect land, forest resources and traditional ways of life.

Through these two lectures, the importance of understanding tribal history and freedom struggles as more than just political and social events was highlighted. They should also be viewed as broader historical struggles connected with land, nature, natural resources, livelihood and social justice.

Bhagwan Birsa Munda: A Distinct Chapter in the History of the Indian Freedom Struggle was the first session on the second day and it conveyed the life, struggles, and activities of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The session also covered the 'Ulgulan' movement he initiated, as well as the struggles he led by mobilizing the Munda tribe against the British. The second session was on ‘Reading history through artifacts’. The session discuss how history explained and understand through artifacts. It means studying human-made objects—such as tools, pottery, coins, clothing, and personal mementos—to understand past societies, daily life, and cultural shifts. Written history is often incomplete or biased toward elites; everyday objects document ordinary and marginalized lives. In that session he says how artifacts Filling historical gaps and Tracking change over time. The session helps the participants to understand physical evidence through close observation, questioning, and careful interpretation rather than passive memorization.

Another session of the day ‘Thalakkal Chanthu: Life and Struggles &Periya, Panamaram Attacks’ was focused on Thalakkal Chanthu—a well-known tribal freedom fighter from Kerala—and the struggles he led. The next session was on 'Tribal Communities and Environmental Conservation and it discussed in great detail about the contributions made by tribal communities toward the protection of our environment. He also pointed out that tribal communities place a much

higher importance on environmental conservation than people in the general society do.

Another session of the day was on 'Kanikkar Freedom Fighters, Freedom Struggles of the Malaarayan and Ulladan Tribal People through Oral History, and it talks in detail about the little know freedom fighters from Kanikkar tribal community. He also provides some oral narrations about the freedom fighters from the Ulladan and Malayarayan tribal communities. The last session of the day was on the 'Tribal Freedom Fighters from the Mavilan, Kurichiyan and Karimbalan trial communities of the State. It gave an understanding of the lives and histories of struggle of tribal freedom fighters Kallalan Vaidyar, Raman Madathil, and Perumthodi Othenan.

Through this training program, it was possible to create awareness among the trainees regarding the contributions made by various tribal struggles to the freedom movement and nature conservation.

**Second Day Sessions**

The first session of the third day introduced the North-Eastern region of India as a relatively less-known yet historically significant region in the broader narrative of India's freedom struggle, focusing on the contributions of U Tirot Sing, Veer SambudhanPhonglo and Rani Gaidinliu. Session highlighted how the struggle for Jal, Jangal and Zameen (land, forest and water) was a common thread connecting tribal resistance movements across different parts of the country. The session also explored the experiences of Land and cultural dispossession and resulting alienation, as the aftermath of colonial exploitation. The participants could understand the special constitutional provisions and linguistic diversity etc that helps north east to keep a distinct diverse identity on its own. The session helped to draw parallels between the struggles of tribal communities in the North-East and those in other regions of India.

The Second Session of the Day was on the topic: Santhal, Bhil and Rampa Tribal uprisings. The talk and further discussions focused on the significance of tribal movements in the Indian freedom struggle and analysed the general pattern of tribal movement during the British rule in India.The session helped to develop awareness about land, forest, cultural and community rights, strengthen a sense of tribal identity, heritage and pride and more importantly to connect historical tribal struggles with contemporary issues faced by tribal communities. The last session of the day was on the Importance of Language in Documenting Freedom History. Through the above of the day, the trainees were able to gain an understanding of female tribal leaders in India and their struggles. Furthermore, they were able to develop a clear perspective on the struggles of the Bhil, Santal, and Rampe communities, as well as movements such as those led by the Pahadia Sardars and the Kols. The session on the importance of language in the documentation of the history of freedom was highly beneficial.

**Third Day Sessions**

Through the above mentioned various sessions, the program created a clear understanding among the trainees about the lives and struggles of tribal warriors both within Kerala and outside Kerala. The programe is successful to create awareness among the tribal representatives regarding the contributions made by various tribal struggles to the freedom movement and nature conservation.

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| **Images** | https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CzWlh1guC7yM_kS-V_qwcthfE_s1eeto?usp=drive_link |