

Tribal Cultural & Research Centre Inaugurated in INE

“Sanskruiti Kendra” – Tribal Cultural and Research Centre at Panaspara, Sankara, Sundargarh in Odisha was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Telesphore Bilung SVD, the Provincial Superior of Eastern Indian Province of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) on 9th August 2013 on the occasion of World Indigenous Day.



The newly appointed Director of the Centre Fr. Francis Pereira SVD welcomed the Chief Guest Rev. Fr. Telesphore Bilung SVD and other guests of honour including Rev. Sr. Teresa Ddungdung, Superior General of Handmaids of Mary, Rev. Sr. Regina George, Provincial Leader of SSpS, Mrs. Usha Soreng, President of Mahila Sangh of Rourkela diocese, Fr. Joseph Topno SVD, former Provincial Superior and other dignitaries. The local mothers of Sankara accorded the guests a traditional welcome with dance, washing of hands and a welcome song and flower bouques. The local youth sang a song. Chief Guest then inaugurated the Sanskruti Centre by beating the ‘Nagada’ (tribal drum in INE) and lighting the “Hansua Mashal” (symbolic torch used by the tribals in INE). In his speech Chief Guest explained the purpose of the Centre. Two bookshelves which were sample mini museum and mini library kept in a small hall and the residence was then blessed by the chief guest. Assistant Director Fr. Lawrence Lakra, SVD remembered the contribution of many people for the beginning of the Centre and for the function and thanked them. The programme ended with the planting of a Karam sapling and the traditional dance by mothers of Sankara.



VISION of the Centre: Preservation and Promotion of Indigenous Cultures

MISSION of the Centre:

1. To do Research in the Areas of Anthropology, Religion and Culture.
2. To Collect and Preserve Cultural Artifacts.
3. To Promote Indigenous Cultural Dances and Songs.
4. To Promote Tribal Languages and Literature.
5. To Promote Inter-cultural Harmony.
6. To Promote Inter-religious Dialogue.
7. To Preserve Local Flora, Fauna, Medicinal Trees & Plants

ACTION PLAN of the Centre:

1. Collection, preservation and display of cultural artifacts, paintings, photos, statistics, etc. in a hall which could be later made into a museum as per the availability of funds.
2. Setting up of a library with books and journals for research on indigenous cultures.
3. Holding annual competitions or cultural fest in order to encourage preservation and promotion of traditional cultural dances and songs.
4. Having courses to teach the youth traditional cultural dances.
5. Having courses to teach tribal languages especially those in danger of extinction.
6. Having seminars on introducing the “outsiders” to the local culture.
7. Having seminars on culture and development.
8. Preservation of Local Flora, Fauna , Medicinal Trees & Plants through a Botanical Garden
9. Publishing an annual journal with articles on the indigenous cultures.
10. Networking with on-line university libraries and with academic/cultural institutes such as Institute of Indian Culture at Andheri, Mumbai and the Anthropos Institute at St. Augustin, Germany and with governmental & non-governmental organizations.
11. Seeking financial support from funding agencies, local community and from individual persons and politicians.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CENTRE:

SANSKRITI KENDRA - TRIBAL CULTURAL & RESEARCH CENTRE

PANASPARA, P.O. SANKARA, SUNDARGARH – 770020, ODISHA

(OR c/o Catholic Church, P.O./Dt. Sundargarh, Odisha – 770001.)

Fr. Francis Pereira, SVD